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August 463

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HIGH TIMES AUGUST

Needless to say, the expansive outdoor smoking area, filled with hundreds of booths dedicated to cannabis consumerism, was the first stop for nearly everyone.

—A Massive Cup, page 47

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47 Colorado's Conquest
As the Rocky Mountain State begins to reap the rewards of its historic decision to allow recreational pot shops to do business, cannabis entrepreneurs are taking advantage of the legal landscape to plan big and take the industry to the next level. *By Dan Skye*

65 A Massive Cup
Over the 4/20 weekend, High Times made history by hosting the biggest marijuana expo in history. Over 30,000 marijuana fans showed up to celebrate the freedom high in the Rockies! *By Samantha Nicholas*

80 The Indoor Acre
Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko and photographer Ry Prichard go inside the massive marijuana growing facilities of Gaia Plant-Based Medicine to reveal how quality cannabis can be produced in large quantities.

100 The Marijuana Minstrels of Bangladesh
For hundreds of years, the Bauls have been celebrating the legacy of Lalon Shah, whose spiritual songs, when sung under the influence of cannabis, are said to connect men and women with the divinity inside themselves. *By Joseph Allchin*

109 Smooth Operators
Meet the female ganjapreneurs pioneering the cannabis body care industry, and discover how topicals can relieve arthritis, eczema and sore muscles. Learn to use cannabis-infused body care products for healing that's more than skin deep! *By Elise McDonough*

116 High Times Interview: Ice Cube
The legendary rapper, who blew the doors off at the U.S. Cannabis Cup in Denver, sits down after his concert for a candid interview about the rap world. *By Dan Skye*

DAN SKYE, COVER: LOCHFOOT, CENTERFOLD: FREEBIE

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Orange Meltaway Truffles

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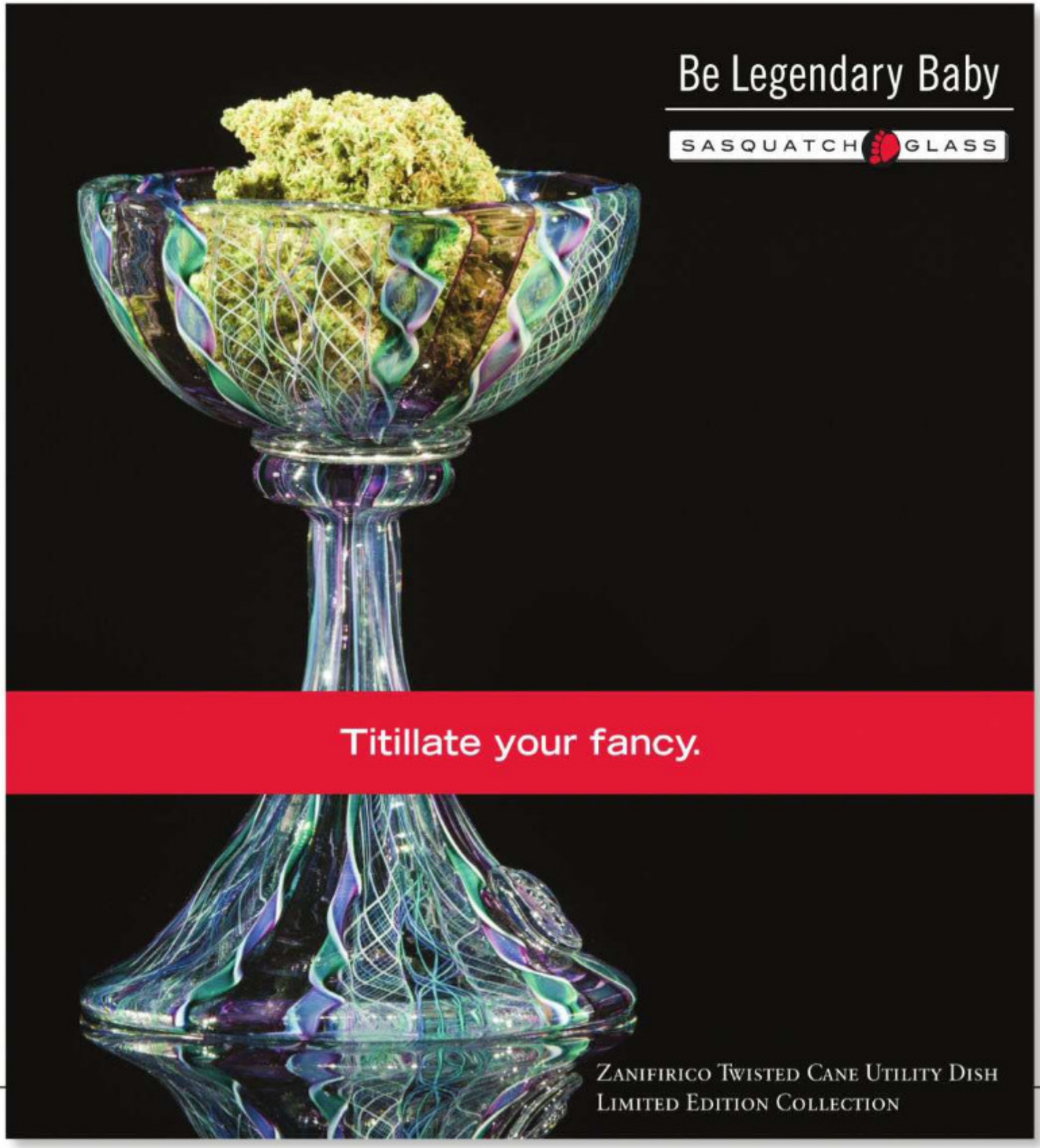

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HIGH TIMES DIGITAL

Glass Artist of the Month

Pakoh burst onto the pipe scene in the late '90s, fresh out of art school. With the help of classical glass maestro Bryan "B" Clarke, along with local Rhode Island legends Carla and Patty, Pakoh honed his skills working his way up the ranks of the New England glass scene, eventually becoming the in-house artist at the Carter Institute of Glass in Warwick, RI.

But Pakoh was restless. In search of bigger and better things, he moved to Seattle in 2003 to work with pioneers in borosilicate glass like MNP, D-Wreck, Kevin Nail, Amber Pelligrini, Ease and Eli Z. These Seattle artists showed Pakoh how to make more complex glass pieces, enabling him to actualize whatever his imagination spawned.

Three years ago, Pakoh and his talented wife (known as ACE Glass) headed to Southern California where they now reside. Pakoh has reunited with the legendary D-Wreck. Together, he, ACE and D-Wreck have established The Asylum, the premier glass shop in SoCal. Craziness is the norm as these top artists bust out some of the sickest pieces on the glass scene—so crazy that it had to be institutionalized!

Visit Pakoh's work at hightimes.com.

Pakoh's imagination knows no bounds.

POT POLL

Some people wouldn't make a move in the morning without a joint (and maybe a strong cup of coffee as well). Others save their pleasure for later in the day. We're curious. Do you wake 'n' bake? We asked—you answered! In hordes! We stopped counting after 7,000. Forget Wheaties. MJ is how we start our day!

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Always...36%
Usually...27%
Sometimes...24%
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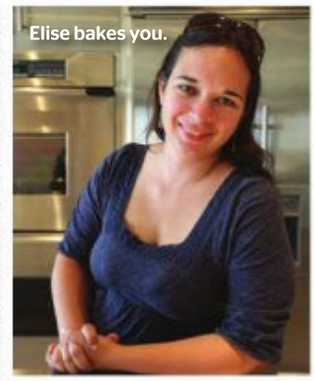

Elise bakes you.

Cannabis Kitchen

In *The Official High Times Cannabis Cookbook*, author Elise McDonough presents all facets of "stoner-style cuisine," healthy choices like raw juice and meatless meals with occasional decadence in the form of melted cheese and rich desserts. Check out "Cannabis Kitchen" online for Elise's weekly cooking tips!
Go to hightimes.com/cannabis-kitchen.

HT in Michigan

Over the weekend of July 26-27, the Cannabis Cup returns to the heartland with our second event in the Great Lakes State. Get your tickets now for this stellar event.
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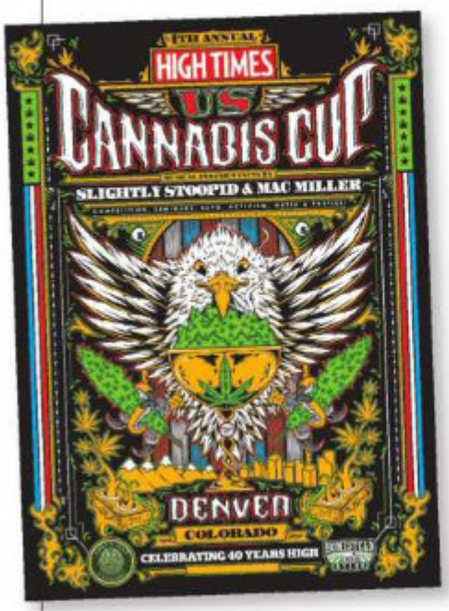
The Right Side of History

The wrong side of history—it's a phrase that's been used a lot lately by the Obama administration and other progressive politicians and pundits to condemn the outdated views or actions of their opponents. While its overuse may render it a cliché and diminish its power, there are some instances in which I'd argue its use is totally justified: to describe opposition to marriage equality, the teaching of evolution, and the science of climate change. Allow me to add one more to that list: prohibition. Which, by my estimation, puts both High Times and Colorado squarely on the right side of history.



Colorado continues to make history. First, its citizens amended the state constitution to legalize the adult possession and use of cannabis. Then, to their credit, Governor Hickenlooper and his administration set to work acting out the will of the people by creating the world's first retail recreational cannabis industry. This economic experiment is estimated to raise around $77 million in tax revenues for the state this year. These impressive revenues are just a fraction of the profits being reaped by a new crop of stoner startups and soon-to-be marijuana millionaires, some of which are featured in our article "Colorado Conquest" (page 47).

Of course, that's not even counting the millions generated by pot tourism, which is skyrocketing. Never was that more evident than during the third week of April, when an estimated 300,000 people flocked to Denver to celebrate 4/20 by exercising the newfound freedom to smoke together in peace. Of the many parties and events taking place in town, none were as ... well, historic ... as our sold-out U.S. Cannabis Cup—with more than 400 vendors, nearly 40,000 attendees and three nights of top-tier entertainment including Slightly Stoopid, Snoop Dogg, Wiz Khalifa and Ice Cube (see interview on page 116). You can see what you missed—or if you were there, relive the fun—by watching our video coverage on hightimes.com and reading our feature "One Massive Cup" (page 65).

Later this year, Washington State is also expected to begin opening their own retail recreational pot shops, and as the tax revenues and public support for legalization continue to grow, more states will follow their lead. So far, the Obama administration hasn't gotten in the way. In fact, they've recently admitted that they're open to rescheduling cannabis, laid out guidelines for banks to do business with the industry, and even announced a new clemency policy for unjustly harsh drug sentences from past decades. So the question is, which side of history are you going to end up on, Mr. President?

Highest regards,

Bobby Black
Senior Editor

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Green Investing

The money I spend buying shares in the legal marijuana industry is a loan that I hope will someday be repaid with interest.

I am not a day trader. Instead, I want to support one of the few truly great things that has developed in America lately amidst a sea of spying, war and corruption. Millions of people will benefit from the legalization of this plant, whether through jobs, medicine, money, entertainment or release from prison.

For more than 20 years, I have watched the War on Drugs in America closely and hoped for it to end. I felt helpless to stop it, but I tried at least to spread my ideas. I didn't have any money then. Now that I have a little extra, I want to support the end of pot prohibition.

I have seen 18-year-old girls branded as felons for life and sentenced to years in prison over small bags of cannabis. I grew up with a few who are dead over it. There have been decades of death and imprisonment and the squandering of taxpayer money thanks to the federal government's senseless war against this plant.

So if my loan can't be repaid with interest, consider it a donation.

JT

My recovery is going well, thanks to God, my wife and the weed.

Post-Coma: Pot, Not Pills

In April, I suffered traumatic brain injuries in a motorcycle accident and spent 17 days in a coma. (I even slept through my 31st birthday.) This week, the doctors are replacing the bone flap they removed from my skull to accommodate the brain swelling. Believe it or not, I have refused pain medicine because I didn't want to get addicted. The one thing that helps me deal mentally with my situation is hitting my bowl a couple times a day. It helps me to focus; without it, my mind wanders. My recovery is going well, thanks to God, my wife and the weed. I had to learn to walk again. Three seizures and a few bowls later, I am still here. I believe that within two years of marijuana being legal, thanks to the jobs and revenue it will produce, this country will be out of its hole.

Chris

With "Friends" Like This...

My best "friend" and I got into an argument, which led to him swearing an affidavit against me stating that I was a convicted felon who was selling guns! In 2007, I was convicted on three felony counts for growing marijuana. My "friend" knew that I was currently growing and decided to lie and say I was selling weapons. I got busted on February 5 for growing 26 plants: Animal Cookies, Chemdog x Larry OG, the Purps, Chemfire and a couple others. I had one 600-watt high-pressure sodium light and several 50-watt compact fluorescents. The police originally raided my place based on my "friend's" accusation. But the fact of the matter is, I've never had any guns! I didn't even get caught with a scale—I was growing for personal medical use, which is still illegal in Iowa. I broke my neck on August 26, 2011. I have a cadaver bone plate and four screws in my neck and am lucky to be walking. If you can help, please do!

Justin Newman

Classics of Cannabis Cinema

Making a list of the "Top 40" *anything* is always problematic, since one risks including something not so relevant and overlooking more worthy comers. Your "Top 40 Stoner Movies" [June '14] was relatively well done, but I think you forgot some films that are more relevant than, let's say, *Thelma & Louise*.

Among these are the funny *Taking Off* (Milos Forman, 1971); the famous and dramatic *Midnight Express* (Alan Parker, 1978); and the more recent *The Beach* (Danny Boyle, 2000), which features the most gorgeous cannabis plantation ever seen in a movie. These three are a must for any complete "stoner movies" list. Personally, I would also have included two counterculture classics: *Chappaqua* (Conrad Rooks, 1966) and *Alice's Restaurant* (Arthur Penn, 1969). I hope to see these (and other) titles in the next movie list. Thanks, and all the best for the magazine.

Andrea

Tunisia Rallies for Legalization

Hello, I'm Seif from Tunisia (for those of you who are unfamiliar, Tunisia is a small North African country by the Mediterranean Sea). I have a blog called Cannatunis (*cannatunis.wordpress.com*). I work to educate people here about cannabis and its medicinal benefits. If you're caught in Tunisia with a joint or rolling papers or even a roach, you'll go to jail for a year and pay a $1,000 fine. We are fighting to reform these laws and need some help.

Seif

Free Randy Lanier

My father, Randy Lanier, is in his 27th year of serving life without parole for distributing marijuana. I live in Colorado and believe it is time for a change. Our advocate, Cheri Sicard (a.k.a. Cannabis Cheri), has put together a petition to free my dad and all the other pot POWs. For information on my dad's case or to read his blog, go to *randylanier.com*. The petition site can be found at *change.org/petitions/president-barack-obama-grant-group-clemency-to-nonviolent-drug-offenders-serving-life-sentences*. My dad is a good man who loves yoga, tai chi, chess and oil painting. I believe he deserves to be at home with his family before the end of his life. I also believe we should halt the drain on taxpayer dollars for something that is legal where I live. Well wishes.

Brandie Lanier

CORRECTION

In the June '14 issue of *High Times*, in the story "New Flame," the correct name of Jah9's 2013 album is *New Name*, not *No Name*. Additionally, she lost her older brother to leukemia as a child, not her younger brother. *High Times* regrets the errors.

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Contact High

THE INDOOR ACRE Pot legalization in Colorado and the subsequent regulations have led to the rise of marijuana growing facilities of unprecedented size and scope. Join senior cultivation editor Danny Danko on page 80 for an exclusive tour inside the massive cannabis production warehouse of Gaia Plant-Based Medicine. *Photo by Ry Prichard*

Santa-Fe
MAX DRY Dual

TOP OF THE ROCKS Spending the 4/20 weekend with our good buds Slightly Stoopid has become something of a tradition for High Times. For the second year in a row we took over Red Rocks and threw the most massive of parties, full of good vibes and ganja goodness, celebrating legal weed! *Photo by Kim Sidwell*

Contact High

COLORADO'S FINEST Behold some of the winners of our epic 2014 High Times Denver Cannabis Cup in the flower and concentrate categories. These selections stood out among all others as the finest pot and hash on Earth. Check out our full coverage of this monumental event on page 65. *Photos by Ry Prichard*

GHOST TRAIN HAZE
(Green Man Cannabis)

SUPER SILVER HAZE
(Life is Good Healing)

TWISTA
(The Green Solution)

SOUTH CENTRAL LA
(Colorado Alternative Medicine & Root Seller Seeds)

WHITE OG SOLVENTLESS WAX
(Essential Extracts & Down With Dirt)

BLUEBERRY WALTZ
(Natural Mystic Cannabis Caregivers)

GOLDEN GOAT SHATTER
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(Cannables)

COOKIES & CREAM
(Exotic Genetix)

CINDERELLA 99 X WHITE
(Natural Remedies)

PURE POWER PLANT
(Good Meds Network)

GRAND DADDY PURPLE
(Cannables)

MK ULTRA
(The Green Solution)

PRESIDENTIAL KUSH
(The Green Solution)

HILLBILLY ARMOR
(Elite Cannabis Enterprises)

SOUR JILLY
(Green Dragon Health Services
& TC Labs)

DURBAN POISON
(Denver Relief)

LARRY OG
(MMJ America)

JILLY BEAN #1
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Whoopi Is Wild About Weed!

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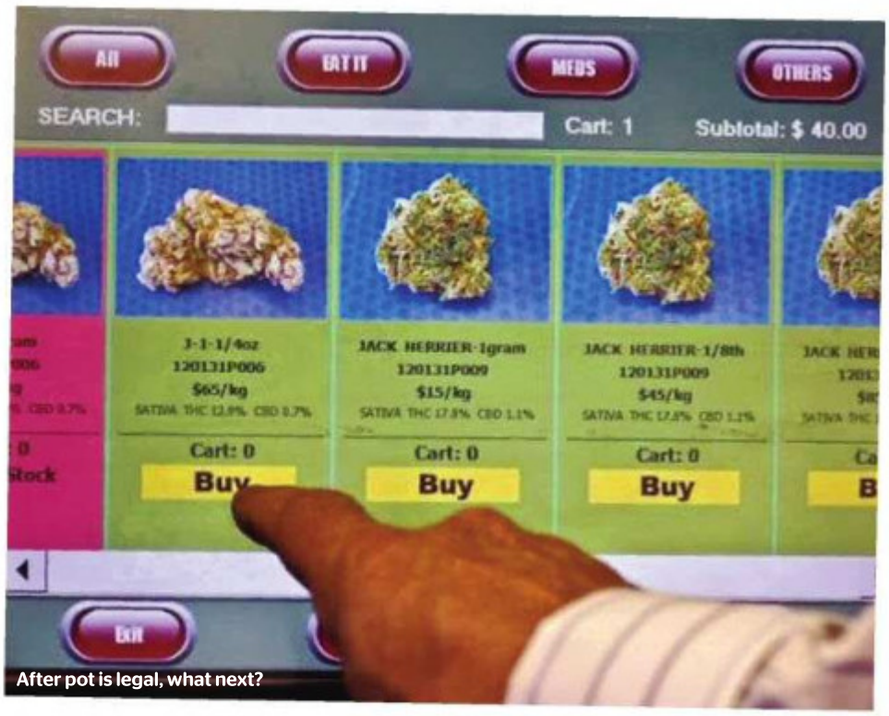
Mile High Sounds
Denver's Pictureplane produces pot vibes. p.29

Food
Juicing Your Buds
Juice up a batch of the mean green machine! p.36



After pot is legal, what next?

Legal Marijuana:
Which Market Do You Prefer?

As we approach the new inevitability of legalized cannabis, three models have been proposed for a national marijuana market. *By Jon Gettman*

In the past, the goal of marijuana legalization was simple: to bring about the end of federal prohibition and allow adults to use the plant without threat of prosecution and imprisonment. But now that legalization is getting serious attention, it's time to examine how a legal marijuana market should operate in the United States.

Below are descriptions of the three kinds of legal markets that have emerged from various discussions on the subject. *High Times* would like to know which one you prefer.

First, though, let's touch on a few characteristics that all of these proposals share. In each one, the market has a minimum age for legal use, likely the same as the current age limits for alcohol and tobacco. In each of these legal markets, there will be penalties for driving while intoxicated, just as with alcohol use. You can also assume that there will be guaranteed legal access to marijuana for medical use by anyone, regardless of age, with a physician's authorization. The last characteristic shared by all three markets is that there will be no criminal penalties for the adult possession and use of marijuana.

Proposal #1: Government-Run Monopoly

Under this approach, there would be no *commercial* marijuana market allowed. Marijuana would be grown and processed for sale under government contracts, supervised and/or managed by a large, government-chartered nonprofit organization. Marijuana would be sold in state-run retail outlets (similar to the state-run stores that have a monopoly on liquor sales in places like Mississippi, Montana and Vermont, among others), where the sales personnel will be trained to provide accurate information about cannabis and its effects. Products like edibles and marijuana-infused liquids with fruity flavors would be banned out of a concern that they can encourage minors to try the drug. There would be no advertising or marketing allowed, and no corporate or business profits. Instead, the revenue earned from sales would pay for production costs and the operation of the state control organization; the rest of the profits would go to government-run treatment, prevention, education and enforcement programs. Regulations would be enforced by criminal sanctions and traditional law enforcement (local, state and federal police). No personal marijuana cultivation would be allowed. The price of marijuana would remain at or near current levels in order to discourage underage use.

Proposal #2: Limited Commercial Market

Under this approach, the cultivation, processing and retail sale of marijuana would be conducted by private companies operating under a limited number of licenses issued by the federal government. Advertising and marketing would be allowed, but they would be regulated similar to the provisions governing alcohol and tobacco promotion. Taxation would be used to keep prices at or near current levels in order to discourage underage use. Corporate profits would be allowed, and tax revenues would be used to fund treatment,

prevention, education and enforcement programs. Regulations would be enforced by criminal sanctions and traditional law enforcement (local, state and federal police). No personal marijuana cultivation would be allowed.

Proposal #3: Regulated Free Market

Under this approach, entrepreneurs would have open access to any part of the marijuana market. Cultivation, processing and retail operations could be legally undertaken by anyone willing to bear the risks of investment and competition. Advertising and marketing would be allowed, but they would be regulated similar to the provisions governing alcohol and tobacco promotion. Prices would be determined by supply and demand, with taxation set at modest levels similar to current taxes on alcohol, tobacco and gambling. (These vary widely from state to state, but assume that under this model, the price of marijuana would be substantially lower than it is in the current market.)

Also, home cultivation would be allowed. Licenses may be required for any sort of cultivation, but these would be for registration purposes only and subject to nominal fees based on the number of plants involved. Individuals and corporations would be allowed to make whatever profits they can through competition. Tax revenues would fund treatment, prevention, education and enforcement programs. Competition and market forces would structure the market rather than licenses or government edicts, and regulatory agencies rather than law enforcement would supervise market activity.

Should the price of marijuana be kept high through government intervention in order to discourage underage use as well as abuse?

A Different Approach

There are two key issues when it comes to deciding among these proposals. First, should the price of marijuana be kept high through government intervention in order to discourage underage use as well as abuse? Second, does commercialization translate into corporate money being spent to convince teenagers to use marijuana? Many of the proposals for how a legal market should operate are based on assumptions about these two issues, which leads to recommendations that the government must, one way or another, direct and control the marijuana market.

Obviously, the first two proposals outlined above reflect those very concerns. The third takes a different approach, in which marijuana is treated like similar psychoactive commodities, and the public relies on education, prevention and age limits to discourage underage use as well as abuse.

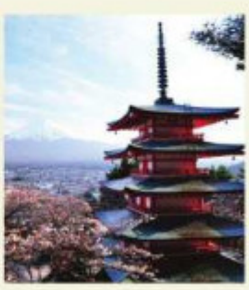
This is how policy analysts and commentators are framing the issues in the new debate over legalization. So, given these three different approaches, what kind of market model would you support? Let us know online at *ht.420.com/regulatingcannabis.*

HIGH FIVE

Nations of Pain

Getting busted for pot in these countries will make you wish you stayed home.

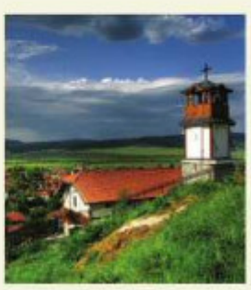
Tunisia
Despite a democratic revolution in 2011 that kicked off the Arab Spring, this small North African country near the Mediterranean Sea has a big problem with pot: Get caught with a joint, roach or even rolling papers in Tunisia, and you're looking at one to five years in prison and a fine of 1,000 dinar ($632). You can also be randomly chosen by authorities to undergo urine testing without your consent.



Japan
Locals caught with a single joint can get up to five years' hard labor. Busted foreigners are more likely to be deported and banned for life. Sharing a doobie gets all partakers charged with possession. Illegal searches are standard; such evidence is rarely challenged in court. As a result, the conviction rate is almost 100 percent. If busted, you could spend weeks in a hellhole prison before being charged—and months more waiting for trial.

Indonesia
Simple possession earns a mandatory minimum of four years. But you can be sentenced to as many as 12. Dealing any amount gets you 5-15 years in prison and a fine of up to $1.2 million. A kilo will get you life. (For anything over a kilo, a death sentence may be imposed.) Australian national Schapelle Corby spent nine years in prison before being released in February after receiving a fraudulent 20-year sentence.

United Arab Emirates
In this tiny nation consisting of seven oil-rich principalities, any amount of pot is grounds for a four-year mandatory minimum, and possibly life. Thinking about dealing or growing for personal use? That's death. A positive urine test equals possession. Undercover cops abound to prevent purchasing on the streets. Unlike most countries, you're in a worse legal situation than the locals if you're busted here.



Bulgaria
Cannabis grows in abundance on Bulgaria's southern border, but the laws—and corrupt cops—aren't so tolerant. If you're toking in this Eastern European nation, do it indoors: having even a near-microscopic amount of cannabis on (or in) your person can result in a full-scale possession bust. Also, Bulgaria's justice system makes no distinction between hard and soft drugs.

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Goldberg & ganja

Whoopi for Weed

Oscar winner Whoopi Goldberg is now a cannabis columnist. The openly pro-pot celeb, who co-hosts the daily talk show *The View*, got the gig writing for the *Denver Post's* "Cannabist" section after the paper's marijuana editor, Ricardo Baca, appeared as a guest on Whoopi's show. Baca said in a press release that Goldberg's "curiosity and desire" inspired his hiring her to write a column every two months.

Whoopi's first piece was published in April. The title? "My Vape Pen and I—A Love Story," in which Whoopi detailed her "relationship" with a vaporizer provided by her daughter. Whoopi refers to a vape hit as a "sip," and that's why she dubbed the pen "Sippy."

Goldberg wrote: "I love my Sippy, it's true. I like the simple pens with cartridges of THC oil because, if you're not a smoker or you can't inhale deeply, it's a wonderful way of ingesting cannabis."

Whoopi revealed that Sippy was loaded with Double Platinum OG Kush, an *indica*-dominant strain that eases her glaucoma symptoms, including painful headaches. She prefers vapor to more potent edibles and flowers. Goldberg brings Sippy with her wherever she goes, but uses the pen discreetly in less weed-friendly towns. She recommends to her friends and associates, especially those undergoing chemo, to get a Sippy of their own!

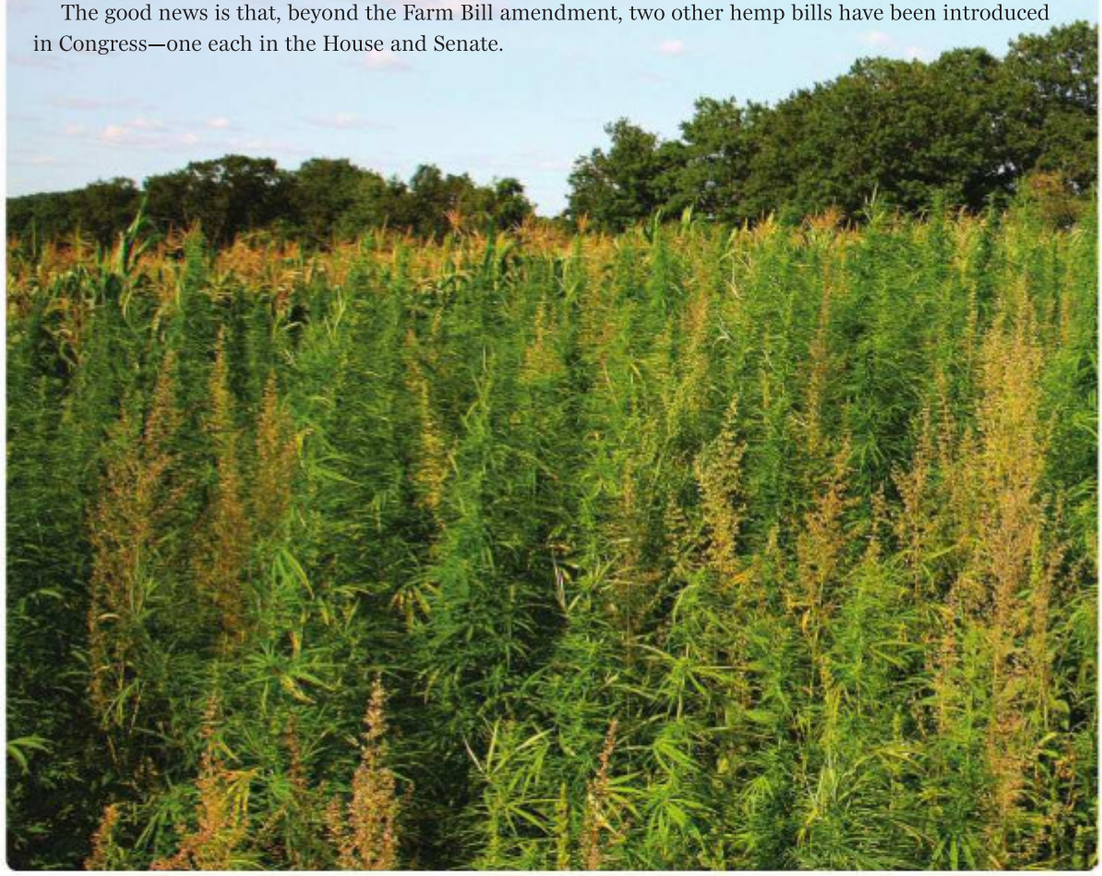
Hemp in Cornhusker Land

Move over, corn—Nebraska's got a new crop to reap, one that doesn't involve GMOs. In April, Governor Dave Heineman signed a bill into law allowing the University of Nebraska and the state Agriculture Department to cultivate industrial hemp for research purposes.

Nebraska's legislature passed the bill by a landslide vote of 32-1 in March, following President Obama's signing of the national Farm Bill the previous month, which included an amendment to legalize hemp production for research purposes—but only in states that sanction it.

More research? Really? Maybe all those legislators who continue to oppose the cultivation of industrial hemp in this country should bone up on the fact that it's not the same as pot—and that Nebraska was once one of the nation's leading hemp producers.

The good news is that, beyond the Farm Bill amendment, two other hemp bills have been introduced in Congress—one each in the House and Senate.


DAN SKYE

More Hot Air

"Marijuana use may lead to heart attack complications, death, a study says." Or so claimed a *FoxNews.com* headline in April. The report came in response to a French study, published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, in which investigators reviewed five years of data in regard to drug-induced incidences resulting in hospitalization. Authors identified 35 cases of cardiovascular cannabis-related reports during this time period. In 13 of these cases, cannabis was the only substance identified in the toxicology screen and/or the patient's medical file.

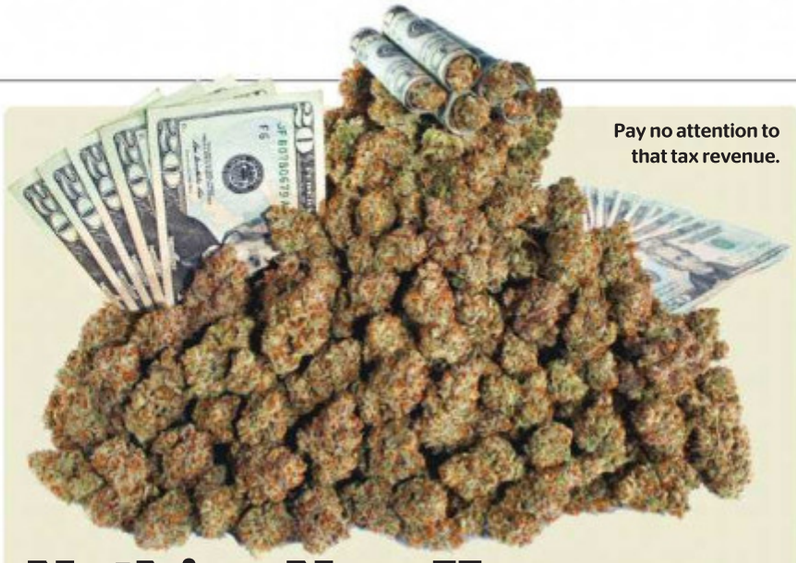
With an estimated 1.2 million regular French cannabis users, it seems odd that researchers would raise an alarm over such an infinitesimally small number of cannabis-related cases involving adverse outcomes. It seems even odder that the mainstream media would care, much less promote headlines implying that smoking pot is associated with heart attacks and death.

Cannabis consumers for decades have been aware that smoking may temporarily elevate heart rate (a condition known as tachycardia), particularly in more naïve users. That said, more regular pot smokers quickly develop tolerance to this physiological effect. More importantly, no sound scientific data indicates that this phenomenon poses a legitimate health threat to healthy individuals. In fact, data published last year in the *American Heart Association Journal* reported that use of cannabis, even among patients with established coronary disease, is not associated with increased mortality risk. That study, conducted by investigators at Harvard Medical School, assessed the survival rates of 3,886 heart attack survivors over an 18-year period. "There was no conclusive evidence of an association between smoking marijuana and mortality," they concluded.

Blame Cannabis!

In April, the Weather Channel website *Weather .com* showcased its anti-pot bias by citing cannabis cultivation as a major contributing factor to California's chronic and complex drought—one that *National Geographic* speculated could last as long as 200 years. The website's editors laid it on thick, characterizing pot plants as "thirsty," with each one requiring a somewhat dubious "six gallons" of water daily. By that reasoning, lettuce—another huge Cali crop—can equally be blamed as a drought contributor. And let's not forget about landscaping in a desert climate; nearly half of Southern California's household water is used on lawns.

Food manufacturing requires huge amounts of water, too. It takes 109 gallons of water to produce one stick of butter (most of it used to water the grass that feeds the dairy cows). Of course, weather itself is a primary cause of drought: Last year was California's driest year on record. And while it's true that many black-market ganja growers disobey rules regarding water conservation and place undue stress on water sources, that only underscores the need for legalized pot production.



Pay no attention to that tax revenue.

Nothing New Here...

US Attorney General Eric Holder says he's "cautiously optimistic" about legalized pot based on developments in Colorado and Washington. But don't get too comfortable. He implied that the Feds will continue to bust otherwise legitimate pot businesses. As recently as March, the DEA was doing just that, shutting down four dispensaries in Los Angeles.

Holder has informed the governors in Colorado and Washington that the Feds maintain their right to file lawsuits if they deem that the legal pot industry in either state is not expanding in "an appropriate way." Indeed, when asked how far legalization would expand in the next decade, Holder said, "I think it's hard to tell. I think there might have been a burst of feeling that what happened in Washington and Colorado was going to be soon replicated across the country. I'm not sure that is necessarily the case."

Holder has the authority to reschedule marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act, but he continues to echo President Obama's line: that cannabis can be moved from Schedule I status without the approval of Congress—and that will happen only if a number DC pols wise up.

Brainless Pot Research

In April the mainstream media, as usual, trumpeted the latest scary anti-pot study, this one published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* and linking casual pot use in young adults to "brain abnormalities." But the research was hardly definitive—and, in at least one respect, it was borderline deceitful.

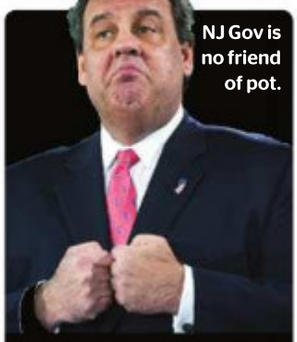
The researchers examined 20 pot users, ages 18 to 25, who smoked at least one joint a week (the median number was six, and several of the participants smoked as many as 20 joints a week). Their brains were then scanned and contrasted to 20 non-users. According to the researchers, significant differences in the shape and density of the amygdala—the brain region associated with emotion and linked to motivation—were observed among the tokers.

The study's researchers and the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which specializes in anti-pot research and partly funded the study, suggested that these brain alterations could be a prelude to addiction. The study's authors warned that "we may need to be very careful about legalization policies and possibly consider how to prevent anyone under age 25 to 30 from using marijuana at all."

But Ryan M. Smith, an assistant research professor at Ohio State University, wrote an online rebuttal noting that the authors "repeatedly and explicitly state a causative relationship between pot use and the anatomic changes throughout the article, only to state in the second-to-last paragraph that no causative relationship can be concluded due to the cross-sectional design of this study." Not surprisingly, the media missed that significant caveat.

Smith pointed out that the data could equally be interpreted to conclude that the neuro-anatomical abnormalities observed *predated* pot usage, thus rendering the study's smokers more likely to consume cannabis.

The only thing this research "proved" is that more research is required. Even NIDA director Dr. Nora Volkow admitted the results were preliminary. But why stop the propaganda machine?



NJ Gov is no friend of pot.

Christie Blusters

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie signed a bill in September 2013 allowing "medibles" to be sold to pediatric patients. But due to a medical pot program that is too costly and bureaucratic (requiring approval from both a physician and a psychiatrist)—not to mention a shortage of participating doctors—New Jersey parents have been frustrated by their inability to obtain medicine for their children. And get this: The new law applies only to minors. Once epileptic patients turn 18, they're no longer permitted to use medibles to treat their symptoms.

Christie is reluctant to expand New Jersey's medical pot laws because that could be a "slippery slope" to legal recreational weed in the Garden State, which he adamantly opposes. Additionally, Christie thinks he has a shot at becoming president, so he wants to cultivate a "tough on drugs" rep. When asked about a recent New Jersey Senate bill to legalize recreational pot, Christie asserted, "Let me be clear on this: I am not, as long as I'm governor, going to permit the decriminalization or recreational use of marijuana. If you want someone who will, you're going to have to elect a different governor."

Sounds like a plan to us.

FREEBIE, LOCHFOOT

HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*

Vigilante vengeance

Violence Breaks Out Among Mexican Militias

Hipolito Mora, a top leader of the "community police" self-defense network in the Mexican state of Michoacán, was detained by state police on March 10 as a suspect in the slaying of two members of the movement. The detention comes amid an armed standoff between rival factions of the self-defense network in the town of Buenavista Tomatlán. Hundreds of police and soldiers were dispatched to the town as the factions seized turf and drew territorial lines across the municipality.

The rival outfit, based in Buenavista's hamlet of La Ruana, is reputed to be led by Luís Antonio Torres González, who goes by the *nom de guerre* "Simón el Americano" because he grew up in the United States. Torres González told the local media that the two dead men were part of his defense group. Their bodies were found inside a pickup truck that had been set on fire.

The confrontation raises questions about the recent deal that made the "community police" militias a part of official law enforcement in Michoacán—sparking fears that Mexico's government has let an estimated 20,000 heavily armed vigilantes take over police functions without knowing what forces are really behind them.

The healing of the nation?

Jamaica to Decriminalize Ganja "This Year"?

There has been mounting speculation in recent months that Jamaica is finally about to decriminalize ganja (as it is ubiquitously called throughout the country, even in official circles). But now there's something approaching official confirmation: A March 6 report on the MercoPress news service cited a statement made by Dealana Seiveright, a leader of Jamaica's Cannabis Commercial and Medicinal Research Taskforce. According to Seiveright, he was told by Phillip Paulwell, the nation's science, technology, energy and mining minister, that "ganja will be decriminalized in Jamaica this year." Paulwell "emphasized that Jamaica cannot be allowed to be left behind on the issue," Seiveright added. "He also reiterated the multiple economic, social and cultural benefits that Jamaica stands to gain if the laws are adjusted sooner rather than later."

Mexico Cracks Down on Narco-Mineral Nexus

Mexican authorities on March 4 announced the seizure of 119,000 tons of iron ore—with an estimated value of $15.4 million—along with 124 bulldozers, backhoes and trucks at Michoacán's Pacific seaport of Lázaro Cardenas, following tips about drug cartels exporting black-market ore to China. More than 400 federal police and military troops were involved in the coordinated raids on 11 processing facilities in the port city. Six Chinese workers at the sites were arrested, apparently on immigration charges. The Knights Templar cartel is clearly looking to diversify beyond cocaine, cannabis and meth, having recently seized effective control of Michoacán's avocado industry.

UN Report Bashes Legalization; Uruguay Bashes Back

In its newly released annual report, the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board took aim at the legalization initiatives in Colorado and Washington states, urging the US government to ensure that anti-drug treaties are "fully implemented on the entirety of its territory." INCB president Raymond Yans said the Colorado and Washington laws "contravene the provisions of the drug control conventions, which limit the use of cannabis to medical and scientific use only." Yans also singled out the new legalization policy in Uruguay, adding that such initiatives pose "a very grave danger to public health and wellbeing."

Uruguay's president, José Mujica, was clearly unimpressed by Yans's remarks. "The United Nations are very old-school trying to yank on our ear about this," he said. Then, implicitly referencing George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq, Mujica added with a touch of sarcasm: "Well, we will be paying them about as much attention as the Great Powers do when *they* make decisions [against UN policy] regularly." And for good measure, he pledged that "we are going to win this one, by showing the road to reform."

Politics and hash in Egypt

Muslim Brotherhood Scion Busted for Hash

The Egyptian media reported on March 2 that Abdullah Mohamed Morsi—the son of ousted president Mohamed Morsi of the conservative Muslim Brotherhood—was arrested for possession of hashish. The young Morsi and a friend were detained at a security checkpoint in the Nile Delta's Obour City, where officials say they found two "joints of hashish" (presumably hash-laced tobacco) in their car. The pair was released after they agreed to give blood and urine samples, which could result in their conviction.

While Egypt's ruling military council has hardly loosened up on hash use, the Muslim Brotherhood, in its one year in power, was even more aggressive in demonizing cannabis from the national bully pulpit. Penalties in the country are harsh: Possession of even small quantities can lead to a life sentence, and trafficking can mean the death penalty. But hash is openly mixed with tobacco at Cairo's many hookah bars, with the police turning a blind eye.

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.

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Frequent Flier

Electronic producer Pictureplane opens up about pre-legalization life in the Mile High City. *By Abdullah Saeed*

Denver is fast becoming America's cannabis mecca, and outsiders are beginning to discover the metropolis's enlightened flavor. Nodding knowingly are native creatives like Pictureplane, an artist bred in this spiritually rich environment. Now stranded in the concrete confines of his Bushwick, Brooklyn studio, the goth-electronic producer known by day as Travis Egedy reminisces about his Rocky Mountain home, the city that inspired his ethereal, industrial sound.

"It was like a psychedelic haven," Egedy recalls of his communal abode and studio, Rhinoceropolis. The northwest Denver warehouse has been home to some of the city's most legendary experimental music artists of the past decade, among them Gauntlet Hair and Modern Witch. Even today, the space remains a hotbed for intoxicated collaborations. During his tenure there, Egedy and his contemporaries would puff fat joints and venture out, making a pit stop at their next-door neighbor's grow house before disappearing into the Colorado wilderness.

"We'd go camping a lot and just hang out and eat mushrooms in the woods and go hunting for UFOs," says Egedy with a tinge of nostalgia. "That was a huge influence on our creative process and our lives. We would just jam together and stay up all night smoking and talking about UFOs. It definitely brought the whole scene together—just eating psychedelics with your friends."

Beyond the antics that his highs inspired, Egedy's time in Denver led him to embrace a deeper ideology: one of utter freethinking in matters of art and life. He describes the city—long before the legalization of recreational use—as a weed-infused refuge where abstract thought thrived. He senses a less spiritual existence in New York, where he lives now. Outside of a tolerant creative scene, there remain vestiges of the old anti-pot stereotypes that died generations ago in Denver. Though he thinks the atmosphere will inevitably warm to it, life in the East Coast metropolis is not often guided by stoned curiosity.

"Everyone's just afraid of snapping out of the daily trance."

To Egedy, this kind of circumscribed thinking precludes a basic truth. "These are plants, and they're here to help us and aid us," he says. "Everyone's just afraid of snapping out of the daily trance. That's all these things do: Pot, alcohol, mushrooms—they're here to awaken us."

As the awakening continues to spread in the US, Egedy beams when considering the possibility that every city in the country may one day share Denver's transcendental vibe. It's a hope that was sharply absent during his travels in Japan. While on tour there, Egedy noticed that, along with American punk, hip-hop and rock'n'roll, Japanese youth fetishized pot culture—except without the pot. Egedy observes: "They have these fake American headshops where you can buy Bob Marley posters and smiley patches. But pot is very illegal there. It's demonized." So he seized the opportunity to create something provocative just for Japan through his clothing label, Alien Body. In collaboration with the well-known New York streetwear brand Mishka, Egedy produced a T-shirt design featuring a buxom anime girl obscured by a stark upside-down pot leaf.

"The shirt was not popular in Japan at all," he says, laughing. However, it did sell out in the US, he adds. "Looks like the Denver vibe is catching on."

Industrial Sound, Yes; Industrial High, No
Though Pictureplane is a proponent of altered consciousness, he wisely draws the line at the recreational use of prescription drugs, which he describes as "government-approved mind-control pills."

EREZ AVISSAR

Bedroom Highs

Dum Dum Girls' Dee Dee Penny talks about her first toke and her latest album. *By Nisha Gopalan*

"It was *awful.*" That's how Dee Dee Penny, frontwoman for the group Dum Dum Girls, remembers her first toke.

Never one to smoke or drink as a teen, Penny took her first puff at the ripe old age of 20, while attending the University of California at Santa Cruz. One night, "I was drunk, and my boyfriend at the time gave me a joint," recalls the singer-songwriter-guitarist, who lives these days in New York City with her husband, Brandon Welchez (of the indie psych-rock band Crocodiles). "I freaked out and got nauseous and almost passed out," she continues. "I was so pissed off the next day—because I was too drunk for *that* to be my introduction to weed!"

The second time, however, proved to be the charm. "I was at band practice for an old band. I used to sing through an analog echo-delay machine," says the Sub Pop artist, whose gauzy, dark pop sound has been praised by critics everywhere from the *New York Times* to *Pitchfork*. "I remember being pretty stoned and singing, and what I was hearing—it was insane! It's probably why, to this day, I do all of my writing stoned. I don't think I've ever written a song *not* stoned."

Dainty and mannered, with an exquisite Siouxsie-Sioux-meets-the-Ramones style all her own, Penny (born Kristen Gundred) admits, "I've never fully identified with stoner culture." Although only a handful of Dum Dum Girls tracks are outright "green" anthems (notably, the satirical "Bhang Bhang, I'm a Burnout" and the more metaphoric "He Gets Me High"), weed continues to play a pivotal role in shaping their songs—most recently in the band's third full-length release, *Too True*.

Penny: Pretty high

"I've never fully identified with stoner culture."

"I smoke enough to make everything sparkle," Penny explains. "It's a heightened awareness of sound, a more fluid place to write—lyrically *and* musically. I'm a pretty quiet person, generally, and I feel like it helps me get into a more lubricated state."

With *Too True*, "I didn't want to do as ethereal an album," she adds. "The main difference was how I played the rhythm guitar: I decided to do more of a fast stroke than a shuffle, which informed the tempo of the songs. I wanted something that had texture to it, in a fast way. With this record, I felt like I was finally free from the baggage that dictated what I wrote."

Much of that baggage stemmed from the death of her mother, which was largely explored on Dum Dum Girls' last full-length, *Only in Dreams*. "I wish I had smoked more during that period—I took too many drugs instead," says Penny, laughing. "But if I'd had a hash dealer, they would've been in *business*."

Turns out her mom would've probably been okay with that. Penny remembers one of the only drug talks the two had. About three years ago, her mom had come to a Dum Dum Girls show at the Bay Area's storied Fillmore venue. "We were both drunk in front of the giant Janis Joplin photograph. She turns to me and goes, 'Oh shit, I haven't been here for a long time! The last time I was here, I was seeing the Grateful Dead, and I was on mescaline.'"

Penny pauses for effect. "I was like, '*What?!*' We hadn't even had the marijuana talk! I missed the opportunity before she passed away to hear all her crazy drug stories. But at least I know she had fun."

Kitchen Table Confessions
Penny owns a vape but prefers rolling. While composing *Too True*'s music at her kitchen table, she'd often strike that perfect balance by alternating sips of coffee and drags off a spliff stuffed with "super-cheesy AK-47 or something."

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Think that's Wheelchair he's smoking? Inhaler, Sardu, and Genital Reaper stink up the studio.

Fire in the (Hell)Hole

Sleaze metallers Syphilitic Lust finally found a decent strain, and here they are to lay it plain. *By Patrick Delaney*

Syphilitic Lust's ugly, unholy and old metal comes from a dark place, crafted by three men at disparate crossroads in their respective rides through the fabled green fog. With just a cassette and a seven-inch under their belts to date (though a full-length is due shortly on Challenge the Throne), the band have been making a name for themselves from California to the Czech Republic and back again with their filthy, primitive street metal—and a little sleight of hand.

It's the end of a long night, and Sardu, the drummer, is holed up in bassist Genital Reaper's house of horrors, laying stripe to [i.e., barfing on—*Ed.*] the Wurlitzer. Lead vocalist and guitarist Inhaler is, well, inhaling tube number 10 on the couch as smoke fills the air once again.

"I'm envious of it, but I don't like the immediacy of it," Genital Reaper says. He's been out of the weed game for decades, having smoked his tree all the way down to the stump back in Georgia in the '80s. "I smoked it once with [Inhaler and Sardu] at practice, because they lit up something that smelled like the pot I remember from when I was a kid—which is what I would imagine is *not* Snoop Dogg weed. But then I looked down and I was nowhere near in key."

But that didn't stop him from trying it one last time, without very encouraging results. "Everything I tried to say was backwards," he recalls, "and I just got mad." And just as a spiritual stoner might envision holy cathedrals in the sky, Reaper found himself trying to *un*-imagine one: "We pulled up to this ancient church near our practice space, and I was like, 'Man, I swear this wasn't here a month ago!'"

For Inhaler and Sardu, on the other hand, grass enhances everyday endeavors. Inhaler says that films and weed go "hand in hand. That's my weekend thing—mostly Italian stuff." Sardu's a movie fan, too—in fact, his stage name was lifted from the infamous '70s splatter movie *Blood Sucking Freaks*, in which the main character, Sardu, is the creepy owner-operator of a Grand Guignol–style theater. "He's a big influence," the drummer admits.

"All of our songs have been written under the influence of weed."

Inhaler says he also enjoys a puff before and after sex, and claims it's even helped his syphilis. "I just got checked out, and I got a clean bill o' health," he brags. Sardu prefers a bit afterwards, but apparently he hasn't seen the beneficial effects yet. "My outbreaks—you know, you can take pills for that. If things get too meaty down there, you just take a break for a while. You gotta let it scab up." Upon hearing this, Genital Reaper looks at his bandmates with a sulk and a shrug. "Shit," he says, "I haven't had sex in *two years*."

Luckily, for Syphilitic Lust, the music is just as important as the sex, and weed is a productive influence on their songwriting. As Inhaler explains: "All of our songs have been written under the influence—lyrically and musically." Plus the availability of quality stuff in these modern times seems to have pulled Sardu out of a bit of a creative rut. "Before, we were smoking this really shitty, moldy brown weed that'd been doused in roach spray," he says. "We were smoking blunts of it, and that would not be conducive to any creativity at all. My head would hurt, and you could listen to music but not make it. Now, we get to smoke this awesome stuff."

Look Long and Deep Into These Empty Eyes
Sardu is also a talented painter who favors the sinister and vivid. His most famous album cover to date is for Midnight's *Satanic Royalty*. The drummer modestly credits a single collaborator in the creation of his fantastic, twisted portraits: weed.

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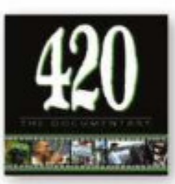
About Time

Illuminating the road to 420.

Focusing on the theme of cannabis culture, this award-winning documentary takes a comprehensive look at our country's long history of reefer madness, the governmental hypocrisy that accompanied it, and the pro-pot activist movement that developed to fight back.

The film starts off with freewheeling smoke-ins at colleges in Santa Cruz and Denver, then delves into such topics as Federal Bureau of Narcotics commissioner Harry Anslinger and his long, racist hold on Drug War policy in the US, as well as canna-exploitation movies and the failed anti-pot programs aimed at youth. In an effective bit of counterprogramming, young narrators keep the film on message, proclaiming their generation's dissatisfaction with the lies, corruption and violence that stem from marijuana prohibition.



420: The Documentary
Directed by Amy Ralston
(Harm Reduction Productions)

Highlighting dozens of news clips and statistics, the film details the efforts of a host of activists in the cannabis movement, as well as various celebrities, to promote harm reduction and sane drug-law reform. Bill Maher makes poignant points via some sharp quips, and in one scene Zach Galifianakis gets high on *Real Time*. NORML founder Keith Stroup weighs in several times, as do Chris Conrad and LEAP co-founders Jack Cole and Peter Christ. And former *High Times* editor-in-chief Steven Hager tells the story of 420's origin, which he uncovered through painstaking research and sifting through a vast array of rumors. Thanks to Hager's efforts, "The Waldos" are (thankfully) not forgotten in a movie named for their high-minded high-school escapades.

This is director Amy Ralston's first film, and she hits it out of the park. After serving time on a drug conspiracy charge, Ralston founded CAN-DO, an organization dedicated to obtaining clemency for other incarcerated women. Now she's making educational movies to boot. We thank you! *Mary Ought Six*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

YG
My Krazy Life
(Def Jam)

Sunny days and drop-top Chevrolets provide the perfect context for YG's debut, featuring DJ Mustard's impressive production and an interesting storyline woven into tracks that could easily stand on their own. Mac Dre's style comes to mind on "Bicken Back Bein Bool," while "1 AM" evokes visions of Compton, and medicative Swisher smoke fills the forthright "Really Be," as Kendrick Lamar and YG lament the heartbreaking realities of life on the street. The only problem with this album is one that has plagued many a rapper before YG: Kendrick steals the show. *Pierce Watson*

Total Control
Typical System
(Iron Lung)

Melbourne-based Total Control display their trademark paranoid urgency here—"Systematic Fuck" and "Two Less Jacks" are satisfyingly jagged blasts—but the album throbs to an electronic pulse. "Glass" and "Flesh War" are stellar examples of the icy yet sensuous New Wave that Gary Numan built a career on. "Black Spring" reaches back even further, gradually accruing layers of sound atop a Neu!-style *motorik* groove. After the Stereolab-meets-Cluster chill-out of "The Ferryman," the group brings down the curtain with "Safety Net," a dose of elegant and majestic synth-pop. *Erick Bradshaw*

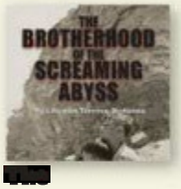
Nomad/Infernöh
Split EP
(Brain Solvent Propaganda)

Swedish raw punks Infernöh pair up with New York City D-beat lunatics Nomad to unleash a furious sonic attack that is essential listening not only for anyone interested in punk, but for any fan of extreme music. Filled with blazing riffs over immense amounts of distortion and galloping drums that might trigger a heart attack in unstable men whose anxiety likely arises from solitary confinement, these tracks deliver a listening experience as memorable as that of hearing Discharge for the first time. If you're in search of demented sounds, this is the place to go. *Mike Caiazzo*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

A New Leaf
Alyson Martin and Nushin Rashidian
(The New Press)

A New Leaf provides a candid, even-handed look at the path to legalization. The authors take superb potshots at the misguided international efforts to create a "drug-free" world. The details of the political process that pro-pot activists successfully negotiated in Colorado and Washington get a delightful rendition. Critics of our movement (and those who nitpick the new laws) will find some ammunition here, but it's just enough to keep them reading until they reach the inevitable conclusion: It's not about freeing the weed—it's about freeing the people. *Mitch Earleywine*



The Brotherhood of the Screaming Abyss
Dennis McKenna
(North Star Press)

Famed psychedelic philosopher Terence McKenna and his younger brother Dennis, a brilliant ethnopharmacologist, together formed the "brotherhood" of this book's title, leaping into the abyss of consciousness expansion during their notorious experiment at La Chorrera, wherein they may have "violated the laws of physics." Though Dennis is the lesser-known (but equally extraordinary) psychonaut, he's as intellectually expansive as Terence and blessed with the same gift of gab, which allows him to splendidly limn the McKenna legend in this memoir. *Michael Simmons*

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Cannabis in the Raw

Juicing with herb offers healthy benefits.

We've all heard of the magical properties of hemp oil by now, courtesy of Rick Simpson, but there's another school of healing thought that finds raw cannabis juice to have slightly different (but equally valuable) medicinal properties. Note, though, that raw cannabis is *non*-psychoactive: THCA is the acid form found in fresh, raw flowers and fan leaves, but it needs to be decarboxylated or heated to yield our psychoactive friend THC.

Weed juice contains über-concentrated amounts of cannabinoids and terpenes, all shown to have therapeutic value. As with hemp oil, there's a patron saint behind the juicing movement—Dr. William Courtney, who co-founded the Cannabis International Foundation with Kristen Peskuski, who has an amazing story of recovery. Using the juice daily, she went from a life spent in bed sick with systemic lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, endometriosis and numerous other conditions to a healthy life of remission.

Dr. Courtney and Peskuski suggest adding a small amount of organic fruits and veggies to the mix in order to cut back on the extreme green taste—they have their own healing properties, and when it comes to medicinal use, the more vitamins and nutrients, the better. *Mary Ought Six*

MEAN GREEN HEALING MACHINE

15 fresh, pesticide-free fan leaves
2 fresh buds, two to four inches in length and well into flower, but harvested while the glands are still milky or clear
Optional additions:
1 cube fresh ginger
Kale leaves
2 to 4 large, hard carrots
Fresh-squeezed orange juice
Fresh-squeezed lemon juice
Fresh berries
1 apple

De-stem and soak the fan leaves in cold water for five minutes before juicing. A wheatgrass juicer is recommended if you're just doing a big batch of leaves, but a blender or juicer will work as well. Blend or juice the fan leaves first, then blend the bud. Sieve out the plant matter and run it through one more time for maximum juice yield.

Prepare the rest of the fruits and veggies by chopping the carrots, ripping the kale leaves and coring the apple. Juice them as well, stirring the end product into the thick, green cannabis juice. Citrus can be hand-squeezed and simply stirred in as well.

THCA is absorbed quickly and goes to work fast, so it's recommended that you make this juice last throughout the day. You should be able to divide it into five servings. If you make it in bulk, be sure to freeze the extra juice immediately and then drink it as soon as it thaws. Freshness is key to this antioxidant-laden, cancer-killing, immune-system-boosting concoction that's all the buzz in the medical world, and perhaps even better than a buzz when in need. This pure green super-liquid has changed lives for the better, allowing its users to give up everything from addictive pain pills to harsh anti-inflammatory meds and beyond. *Heals 1.*

CARRIE DOORHY

MagicalButter Oil

MORE RECIPES

Ingredients

750mL 190 Proof Grain alcohol
2 1/2 ounces high quality cannabis

HOW TO

Step 1 Place all of the ingredients in the MB2 machine.

Step 2 Set the temperature at 160°F.

Step 3 Press the "4 Hours/Tincture" setting.

Step 4 After the cycle is finished, let rest for 30 minutes. Strain into a no-stick saucepan.

Step 5 Place on electric or induction plate, on warm and bring to slow boil. CAUTION: Materials are highly flammable. Could cause injury. Never use an open flame, gas, or propane burner or permit smoking around the cooking process.

Step 6 Continue to cook for 30 to 45 minutes. Patience is essential. Cooking time will vary based on a variety of factors.

Step 7 Consistently stir the oil off the sides of the sauce pan until the consistency reaches that of warm maple syrup.

Step 8 Remove from heat. Let cool for 1 minute. Pour into a container for storage.

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Legal Theft

Civil asset forfeiture was devised to fight drug kingpins, but soon became a handy way for the police to rob Americans.

The War on Drugs has produced countless examples of injustice and cruelty being perpetrated against nonviolent drug users. One of them is civil asset forfeiture.

The seizure of property has always existed in the US, but it usually involved police agencies impounding ill-gotten gains either under criminal law—a guy buys a car with a fraudulent check, say, then gets busted, convicted and loses the car—or administrative forfeiture (as when drugs are found and no one steps forward to claim them).

But all that changed when Congress passed the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, which authorized the seizure of property under *civil* law—in which the standards of proof are much lower and the constitutional protections that exist for criminal proceedings do not apply—and allowed the proceeds from such "forfeited" items (including cash) to be divvied up among the police and prosecuting agencies involved.

Most states immediately followed suit with similar laws, changing the priorities of police agencies from crime fighting to revenue production.

The law was theoretically intended to go after drug kingpins and their assets, but in fact it was mostly used against small-time pot growers and dealers, who had their homes, cars and bank accounts seized. By 1990, civil asset forfeiture had become a billion-dollar-a-year industry.

Tellingly, few of the people who had their property seized were actually charged with any crime. Instead, only their property was "arrested"—and under civil law, it was considered guilty until proven innocent. Moreover, unlike people, property isn't guaranteed a trial, nor is it entitled to a lawyer. Few people fought these seizures because they stood little chance of winning.

The horror stories came in an endless, numbing stream: families tossed into the street when their homes were seized, innocent people terrorized or even shot to death during police raids. The seizures themselves were often wildly arbitrary. Maybe you lent your car to a friend and he got busted with a joint while driving it. Guess what? You just lost the car.

And the money from those forfeitures? It went into things like guaranteed police overtime or new station houses—or it simply went missing. By the mid-1990s, law-enforcement agencies couldn't account for the whereabouts of hundreds of millions of dollars they had seized.

Fortunately, after a mounting outcry, Congress passed the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act in 2000, which puts the onus on the government to prove that the property was somehow involved in a crime, rather than the owner having to prove its "innocence." Although it hasn't stop the seizures entirely, it did severely curtail them. *Peter Gorman*

Peter Gorman is a former editor-in-chief of High Times. Visit pgorman.com.

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(Chiesel) "Very strong high, strong cheese and diesel tastes and smell." *-Newark, DE*

MARKET ANALYSIS

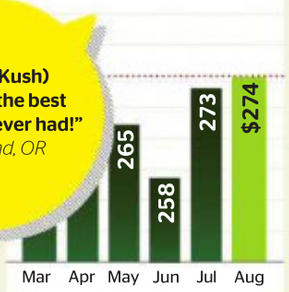
Prices by the ounce

All indices experienced significant gains this month. After hitting a record low in July, the US Price Index reached a year-high in August, finishing $50 above its previous month's average. The Kind Index also set a new high for 2014 at $414 an ounce – $39 above its previous month's average. Kush reclaimed the top spot as the month's most submitted strain after sharing first place with Diesel in July.

US Price Index
YTD Average: $304

Kind Index
YTD Average: $384

Mids Index
YTD Average: $274



Schwag Index
YTD Average: $101

(Purple Kush) "Some of the best smoke I've ever had!" *-Portland, OR*

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Alaska	Anchorage	Purps	$275
	Wasilla	Mango	260
Arizona	Phoenix	Pineapple Express	310
	Tucson	Blue Cheese	250
California	San Diego	Bubba Kush	260
Colorado	Denver	Headband	450
	Pueblo	Golden Goat	300
Connecticut	Hartford	Blue Dream	400
Delaware	Newark	Chiesel	350
Florida	Cortez	Trainwreck	275
Georgia	Atlanta	OG Kush	320
Hawaii	Oahu	Platinum Girl Scout Cookies	280
Idaho	Boise	Kush	560
	Caldwell	Diesel	580
Indiana	Rushville	Sour Diesel	350
Kentucky	Louisville	Haze	225
Maryland	Baltimore	Girl Scout Cookies	400
Massachusetts	Fall River	Blueberry Kush	300
Michigan	Flint	Deadhead OG	320
Minnesota	Crookston	Sour Diesel	375
Mississippi	Meridian	Afghan Lemon Kush	300
New Hampshire	Manchester	Headband	260
New Jersey	Newark	Green Crack	500
	Sussex County	NYC Diesel	325
New York	New York	Strawberry Cough	420
	Saratoga	White Widow	320
North Carolina	Asheville	Sour Cheese	280
Ohio	Cleveland	Girl Scout Cookies	375
	Mount Vernon	Cheese	400
Oregon	Portland	Purple Kush	300
Tennessee	Jackson	Blue Dream	300
	Memphis	Girl Scout Cookies	350
Texas	Houston	Skywalker OG	350
	San Antonio	Granddaddy Purps	300
Virginia	Charlottesville	Blackberry Kush	300
West Virgina	Wheeling	Girl Scout Cookies	400
Wisconsin	Eau Claire	Purple Urkel	300
INTERNATIONAL			
Canada	Milton	Critical Mass	C$190
		Mango	200
	Nanaimo	Hindu Kush	180
South Africa	Durban	Bubba Kush	$343
Venezuela	Caracas	Purps	$98

High Times wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information including location and price by the ounce to ***thmq@hightimes.com*** - or tweet us (***#THMQ***).

(Strawberry Cough) "Love the taste, love the kick — just love this strain!" *-New York, NY*

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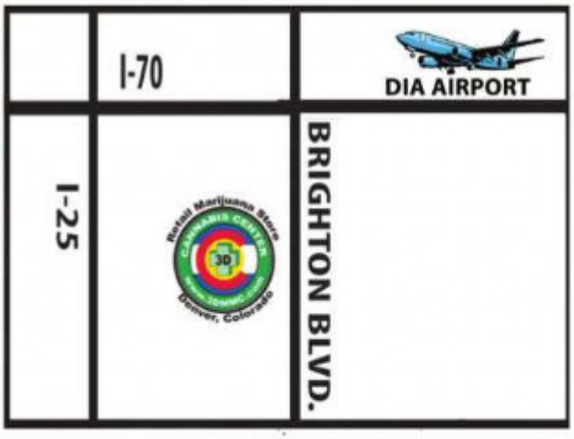

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Hot Products

What's new for cannabis cultivators and connoisseurs.

1 Trim Like a Pro

$18.99, spring-loaded; $15.99, classic version
pro420.com

Growers love the new manicure scissors from Pro 420, made specifically with cannabis trimming in mind. The blades are manufactured from non-stick-coated stainless steel, and the handles are designed for comfort and many hours of use. They're available in both the spring-loaded and classic versions, with free and discreet shipping provided.

2 Fight Mites

$29.70, 50 ml; $54.50, 100 ml
miteshield.com

Anyone who's battled a spider-mite infestation knows the frustration that arises when all their efforts fail. Finally, there's a non-toxic organic treatment for these insidious pests that works in a onetime application, whether in soil or hydroponic mediums. Apply diluted MiteShield not only to defeat these growroom invaders, but to strengthen your plants' resistance to future attacks.

3 Enhance Your Air

$39.95
tnbnaturals.com

Indoor farmers know that providing carbon dioxide to their plants results in larger yields. The new Enhancer CO_2 Dispersal Canisters are efficient, affordable and 100 percent organic. Simply add warm water, replace the lid, shake to activate, and watch the CO_2 levels reach 1,200 parts per million in a 12' x 12' x 12' area for two weeks per canister.

4 Throw Shade

Prices vary
retrosuperfuture.com

If you're looking for stylish sunglasses with a cannabis theme, look no further than the new line from RetroSuperFuture. The classic Italian-designed frames and quality lenses make these shades perfect for anyone who wants to protect their eyes and look good doing it. Comfortable and sleek, this fashion-forward eyewear proves both chic and useful.

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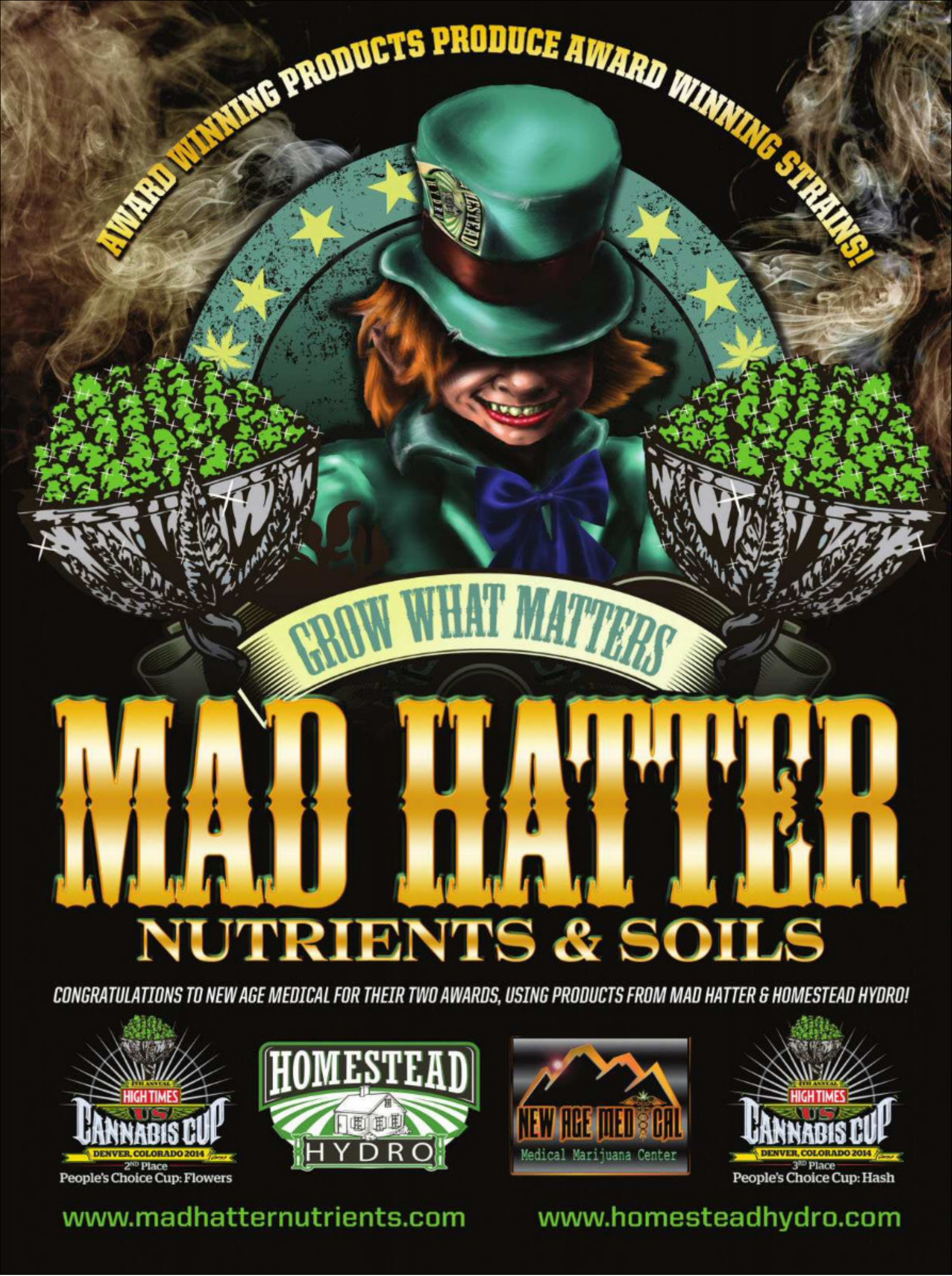
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Colorado's Conquest

We always wondered what would happen if the shackles came off the cannabis plant. Now we know! The business of buds is booming in the Rocky Mountain State, and cannabis entrepreneurs are staking out the future. Check out some of the best and brightest among Colorado's commercial cannabis enterprises. *Story & Photos by Dan Skye*

Brooke Gehring, who oversees Patients Choice of Colorado, stands in one of the company's industrial-size gardens.

Making History Daily

The success of legalization has not only changed Colorado—it's changed *High Times* as well. No longer are we confined to covering personal gardens; now we get to see industrial-size mega-grows, like the cultivation facilities of Patients Choice of Colorado—an expansive, blooming testament to the new era of cannabis freedom that all of America will soon enjoy. Brooke Gehring is the managing partner of Patients Choice and oversees its four locations in the Denver area, three of which service both recreational and medical buyers.

A huge cultivation center is essential, Brooke says, because "our locations have seen 30,000 people walk through the doors—300 to 500 each day. In sales tax alone, we've raised $270,000 for the state in just the first two months of the year. We're making history every day!" But the Patients Choice centers are very much neighborhood shops, places where buyers experience the same sense of community that other local boutiques offer. Plus the high quality of the products here reflects the stringent standards that Patients Choice maintains in its gardens, where 20-plus staffers are onsite 24/7 to keep the flow of outstanding cannabis sure and steady. Check out the extra-user-friendly Patients Choice website for strains and prices at all locations.

Denver: 2251 South Broadway; 4000 Morrison Road; Edgewater: 2517 Sheridan; patientschoiceofcolorado.com

At Marisol's gardens, a staffer hand-waters hundreds of vegetating plants.

An Empire in Pueblo

Michael Stetler, the director and master grower of Marisol Therapeutics in Pueblo, is a native Coloradoan with four generations of medical patients in his family. Marisol started big over five years ago with a gymnasium-sized greenhouse providing for the needs of Pueblo's medical marijuana population. Now, with the arrival of full-blown legalization, Marisol has become one of the county's biggest generators of tax revenue. Last year, it grew the largest legal outdoor marijuana garden in the United States, and Stetler currently oversees a huge indoor operation that encompasses more than an acre of warehouse space. Construction is also underway on four new greenhouses, and Michael hopes to harvest 10 acres of outdoor pot this fall.

Construction is also underway on four new greenhouses, and Michael hopes to harvest 10 acres of outdoor pot this fall.

The sheer breadth of Marisol's operations has earned it the attention of the international press—and the admiration of *High Times* for its epic photo ops. Marisol's dispensary is a spacious, high-ceilinged store in Pueblo West, right off Highway 50. A massive painting of a white buffalo greets customers upon entering: It's part of the Marisol logo and reflects the company's belief in new beginnings. There are scores of Marisol strains available here, all stocked in the spacious walk-in humidor, as well as counters for medical patients and recreational users.

922 E. Kimble Drive; marisolmed.com

LivWell offers two Denver retail locations.

Highly Agreeable

Step into any LivWell location and you'll experience a uniformity of store design featuring blonde wood cannabis showcases, well-conceived lighting and a sense of calm that infuses the cannabis buying experience. LivWell offers locations throughout the Denver metropolitan area and in Colorado Springs. Presently, only the S. Broadway and Larimer St. stores are open to recreational buyers. Stopping by on a Friday evening, business was brisk, but the airy waiting rooms enabled buyers to relax and ponder their pending purchase in a warm, friendly atmosphere. Everything required is available at LivWell for your cannabis needs: premium flowers, edibles, concentrates and all the necessary accessories.

432 S. Broadway, Denver; 2863 Larimer St.; livwellco.com.

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The budtenders of Fresh Baked in Boulder provide the best of the Rockies.

Chris Hageseth (far left) leads the Green Man Cannabis team.

The Weedery

Chris Hageseth, the chief operations officer of Green Man Cannabis, currently runs two medical dispensaries in Denver, both of which will offer recreational sales by summertime. A third recreational and medical shop is set to open soon in Frisco, a ski-country town. With master grower Corey at his side, Chris is determined to take the cannabis scene by storm: Green Man strains have won multiple awards, including the 2012 Denver Medical Cannabis Cup for Best Hybrid, and this year's prize for top U.S. *Sativa*. But Green Man's biggest dreams rest in what Chris calls "the Weedery" (based on the concept of a winery). Ground is being broken this summer on a $25 million facility that will encompass cultivation, education and entertainment. "As we all know, cannabis and music go together," Chris explains. "But I want to demystify marijuana." To that end, the Weedery will house a grow facility open to the public for tours, a museum-like educational space featuring artifacts from America's cannabis industry, and a 5,000-seat amphitheater for outdoor concerts.

greenmancannabis.com

Bowled Over in Boulder

Fresh Baked occupies a nondescript house along one of picturesque Boulder's thoroughfares. Inside, however, it's airy and sunlit—a haven of serenity. When you enter the purchasing area, you'll find three separate counters staffed by friendly and knowledgeable budtenders, all of them exuding that uniquely

> You'll find three separate counters staffed by friendly and knowledgeable budtenders.

Colorado vibe earned though fit, healthy lifestyles. Located on the edge of the University of Colorado campus, Fresh Baked has seen brisk business, especially on weekends and during Spring Break festivities. Its menu is extensive, boasting edibles, topicals and concentrates in addition to outstanding Colorado-grown strains. Fresh Baked took second place in the hybrids category with Jack Flash at the 2012 High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver.

2539 Pearl Street; freshbakedboulder.blogspot.com

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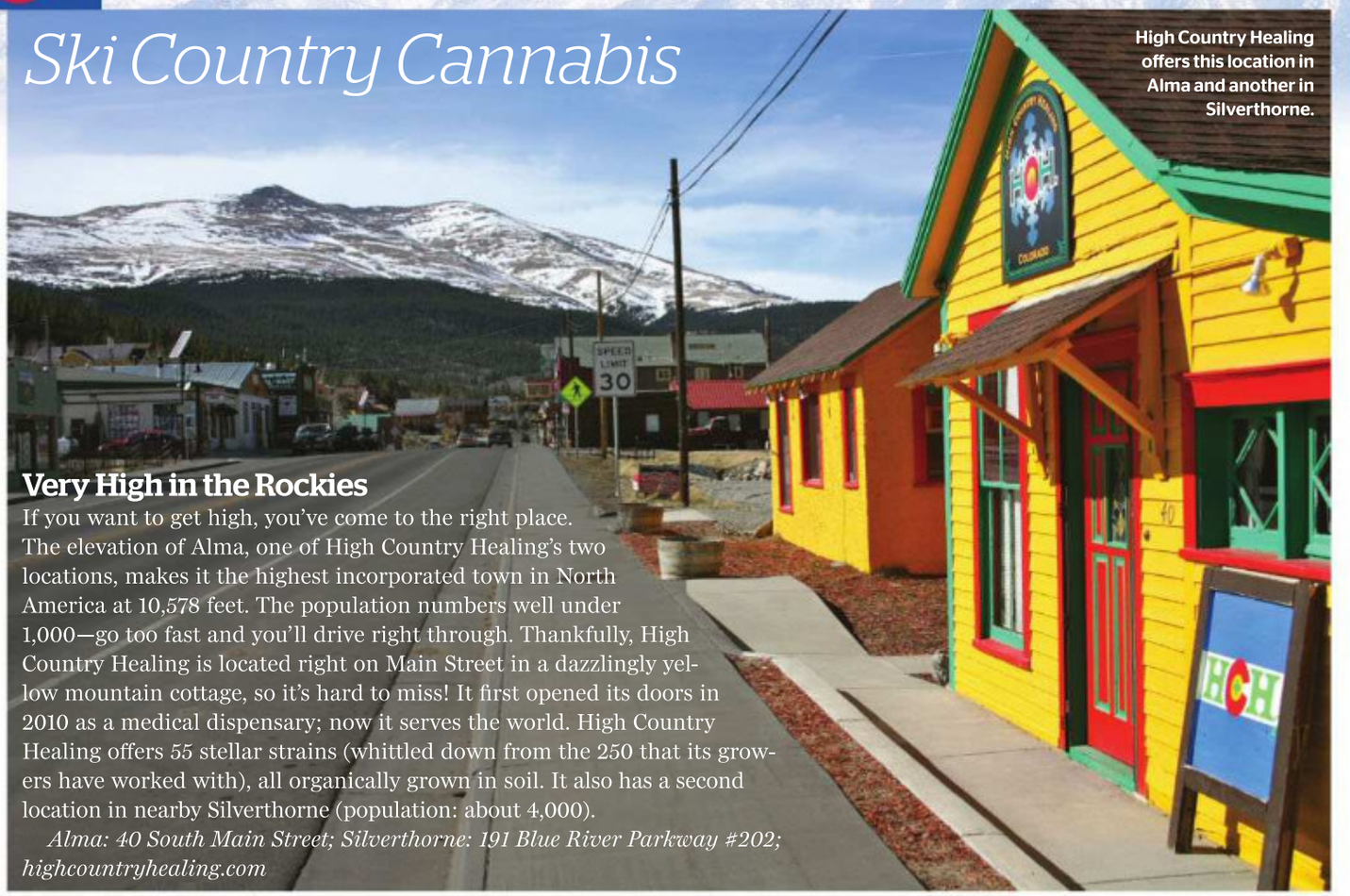
Ski Country Cannabis



High Country Healing offers this location in Alma and another in Silverthorne.

Very High in the Rockies

If you want to get high, you've come to the right place. The elevation of Alma, one of High Country Healing's two locations, makes it the highest incorporated town in North America at 10,578 feet. The population numbers well under 1,000—go too fast and you'll drive right through. Thankfully, High Country Healing is located right on Main Street in a dazzlingly yellow mountain cottage, so it's hard to miss! It first opened its doors in 2010 as a medical dispensary; now it serves the world. High Country Healing offers 55 stellar strains (whittled down from the 250 that its growers have worked with), all organically grown in soil. It also has a second location in nearby Silverthorne (population: about 4,000).

Alma: 40 South Main Street; Silverthorne: 191 Blue River Parkway #202; highcountryhealing.com

Budtender Lauren with a starring lineup of ski country buds.

Buds of Breckenridge

Gold miners were the earliest settlers of Breckenridge, and the first ski resort didn't open here until 1961. But now this mountain town is the ski hub for the eastern slopes of Colorado's Ten Mile Range, which draws millions of tourists in both winter and summer. The Breckenridge Cannabis Club, owned and operated by locals Caitlin McGuire and Brian Rogers, is situated in a quaint and rustic two-story house right on Main Street. The club opened its doors as a medical dispensary in 2010, and now it welcomes recreational buyers as well, with 100 different cannabis products available and some of the lowest prices in the state.

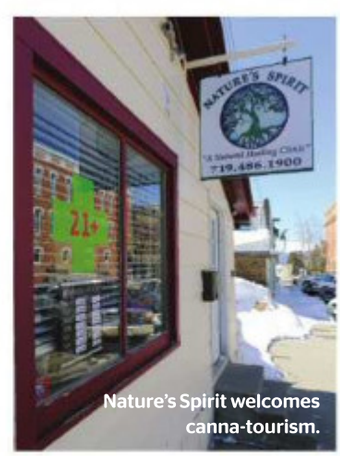
226 Main Street; medicalmarijuanabreckenridge.com

This mountain town is the ski hub for the eastern slopes of Colorado's Ten Mile Range.

Livin' Large in Leadville

In its heyday during the Colorado Silver Boom of the 1800s, Leadville was the site of miner camps that housed some 40,000 people. Now it's a tourist spot steeped in Old West history in the heart of the Rockies, with a population of around 3,000. Just off Harrison Avenue, Leadville's main drag, you can find Nature's Spirit, a family-owned business housed in a cozy white bungalow. Nature's Spirit offers top Colorado strains lovingly grown by the owners, who pride themselves on their 100 percent organic soilless medium and nutrients, reverse-osmosis water filtration and CO_2 injections. Delicious edibles and powerful concentrates are also available at this friendly neighborhood pot shop.

113 East Seventh Street; naturesspirit420.com



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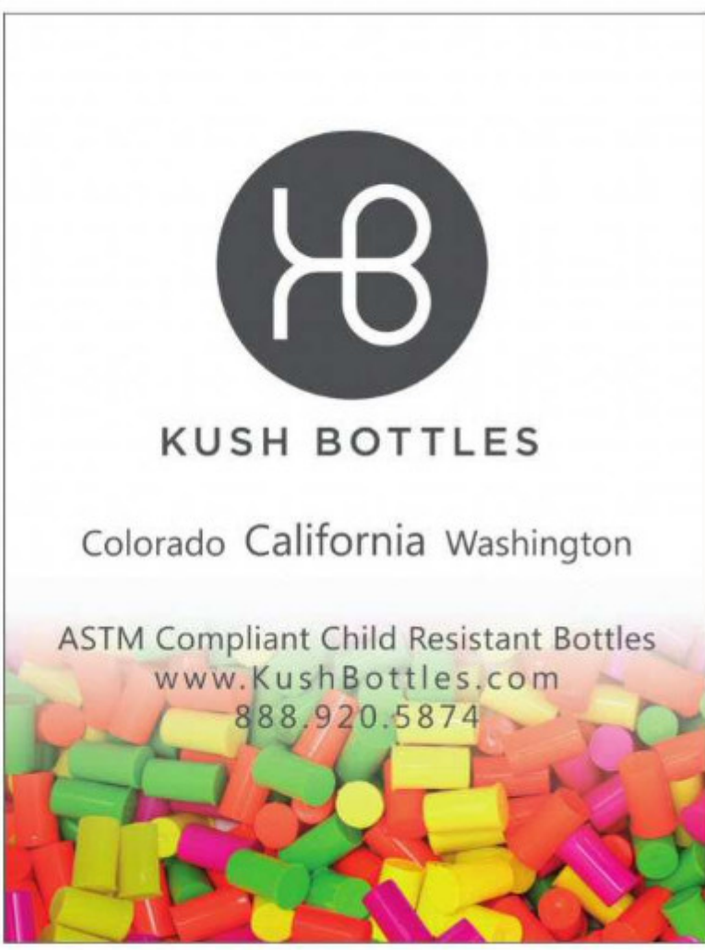
Extraction Attraction

John, Josh, Matt and Mike beheld the world of cannabis extractions and saw a golden opportunity. The result is two companies that offer specialized services to the state's ganja-preneurs. The first, Extract Outfitters, allows its cannabusiness clients to maintain complete control over all aspects of the extraction process in their facilities. Instead of building costly labs, these businesses can rely on portable and cost-effective setups in a variety of configurations that offer savings and efficiency and are compliant with Colorado's guidelines—and Extract Outfitters handles all of the plans, permits and installation.

The foursome's second company, TC Labs, operates a massive grow tailored to concentrate production. Its services include not only selling concentrates wholesale, but providing processing operations to businesses that wish to forgo the exacting undertaking of making concentrates themselves.

extractoutfitters.com; tclabsco.com

At TC Labs, buds dry for concentrate production. TC Labs took first place for Best Medical Concentrate at the Denver Cup.



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Denae manages the Denver "LoDo" location of MMJ America.

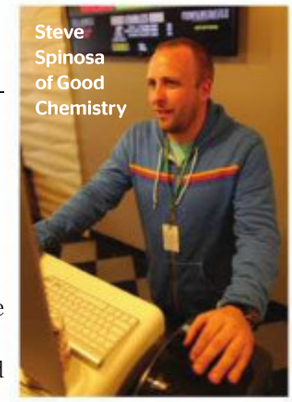
Location, Location, Location ...

There's a good reason for MMJ America's name: With legalization poised to sweep the nation, this ambitious canna-company is actively investigating franchises in other states. But on a more local note, you gotta love MMJ's LoDo (lower downtown) location, which even boasts its own parking lot. Of course, there's a whole lot to love about MMJ America besides hassle-free parking. Customers can purchase a wide range of recreational and medical strains here. (The other MMJ America locations in Denver and Boulder are medical-only.) Even better, its pot products are superb, and the personable MMJ America workers behind the counter will guide you to your ideal strain. You can also check out its voluminous "Strain Library" online.

2042 Arapahoe Street; mmjamerica.com

Just Around the Corner

Have we stepped through some kind of time warp or what? Good Chemistry is located in downtown Denver—just around the corner from the Colorado statehouse! Five years ago, this would have been unthinkable. But as Good Chemistry general manager Steve Spinosa says, "It's been crickets—no one's complaining. Our neighbors have spoken out on our behalf, and we've actually been able to help cops with crimes because of our camera surveillance."



Steve Spinosa of Good Chemistry

But really ... next to the Capitol? How times have changed—for the better! Good Chemistry offers both medical and recreational strains with only a $5 difference in price. The shop's also got a nice neighborhood feel to it, with multiple budtenders taking care of customers with friendliness and efficiency.

330 East Colfax, Denver; goodchem.org

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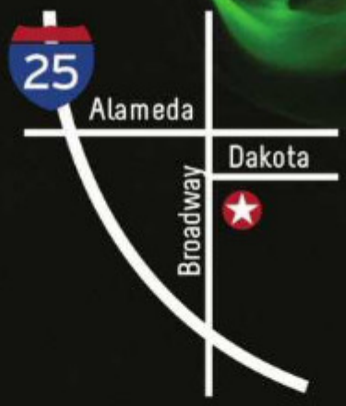

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Denver, CO
(303) 484-1662

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As general manager, Ryan Cook directs The Clinic's success.

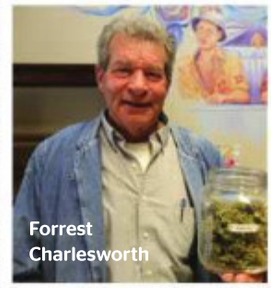
Clinically Speaking

The Clinic has been at the forefront of Colorado's cannabis scene since medical marijuana first took root here. Its reputation is impeccable, and its pot is even better! With six locations to oversee, general manager Ryan Cook has had his hands full keeping good medicine on the shelves for patients, while also navigating the transition from medical-only to recreational sales. On January 1, the Clinic Colorado on Mexico Avenue was the first to make the changeover—the only location in the Clinic network currently selling recreational pot. But with no other advertising than a Facebook post, 1,000 buyers still lined up to buy cannabis. No big surprise there, however, since the Clinic has won four High Times Cannabis Cup awards, including the 2014 Denver Cannabis Cup for US concentrates.

Denver: 3888 East Mexico Avenue; theclinicc olorado.com

The Wait Is Over

Forrest Charlesworth owns and operates New Age Medical, which has one location in Edgewater and two more in Colorado Springs. (Unfortunately, there's a moratorium currently in place on recreational pot sales in Colorado Springs.) Back when he was waiting for his Edgewater location to go recreational, Forrest expressed some frustration. "I'm about as patient as I can be," he said, "what with all the regulations that are constantly changing."


Forrest Charlesworth

As the New Year rang in, Forrest watched nearby recreational shops clean up—but as of April 1, he had fulfilled the requirements of the state's pot bureaucracy and was able to welcome all adults, ages 21 and over, to sample the buds of New Age Medical. "It's not like I wasn't ready," he says now. "I've got a 5,000-square-foot grow in Colorado Springs, and I'm about to start a 3,000-square-foot grow up here. I'm ready to go." And to prove it, he's offering great strains at great prices!

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Josh and Jeff stand in the high-altitude greenhouse of Fremont County Cannabis.

Slowly but Surely ...

In Buena Vista, at an elevation of 8,000 feet, master growers Josh Shipman and Jeff Cain oversee the three greenhouses devoted to the 40-plus strains of Fremont County Cannabis. Approximately 3,000 feet below, in Canon City, the FCC center provides medicine for some 300 patients every week. Fremont County Cannabis is awaiting Canon City's decision to open the door to recreational sales as well, but the process has been slow. The local pols want to see how legalization progresses; because the city's economy depends on family-fun vacations, they want to make sure marijuana fits in. But with Colorado reaping a whopping windfall in tax revenues, Fremont County Cannabis is confident that it will get the okay to open its new retail center in July—right across the street from the stone walls of the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility! And once recreational sales are the norm, FCC plans to develop its nearby mountain property into a campground tailored to cannabis-themed vacations.

fremontcountycannabis.com

Help Is On the Way

Colorado's new recreational laws allow adults to grow up to 12 plants on their own property. Sounds good, but what if you don't know how? Pinnacle Consultation to the rescue! Pinnacle is the brainchild of Kristopher Fowlkes, who spent a few years in the Army before jumping into Colorado's cannabis scene when he saw the chance for an ancillary business. If you're lost in the growroom, Kris can help you find your way: Pinnacle will design and install one in whatever space you have, then solve your gardening problems as well with a per-harvest service contract ($250 per every 1,000 watts of grow op). "Our goal is to make growing simpler and easier," Kris says. "Most people develop a green thumb pretty quick." Pinnacle also operates its own gardens, serving as a medical caregiver.

Kris Fowlkes of Pinnacle

pinnacleconsultationinc.com

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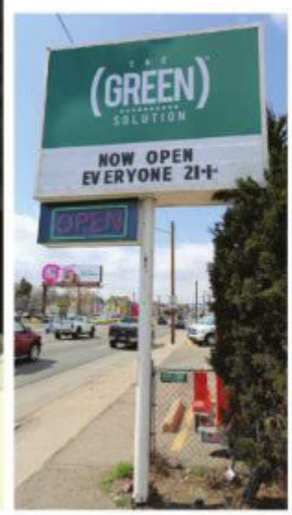
A chef at Dixie Elixirs uses a multi-bladed cookie-cutter to create Colorado Bars.

The Rise of Dixie

In a short span of time, Dixie Elixirs has distinguished itself as a premier producer of THC-infused edibles, topicals and tinctures. The company started off as the maker of cannabis soda pop, but now it boasts close to 40 products. Dixie Elixirs is currently finishing up its new digs, a 27,000-square-foot industrial space that will house a kitchen, lab, production facilities and the company's headquarters (complete with an onsite gym). By the end of the year, it expects to employ a staff of 80. Chief marketing officer Joe Hodas says, "We want Dixie Elixirs to be a showcase for the industry. We want everyone to see how success can be achieved when you bring good business practices to your operation."

dixielixirs.com



Goin' Green

The Green Solution is an example of what you get when you combine cultivation expertise, customer service and quality control: success! With three of its four locations dedicated to medical *and* recreational sales, the Green Solution's wide-ranging selection of strains has been a huge hit. The Green Solution has over 110 strains in its inventory, as well as tinctures, topicals, pre-rolls, and beverages. And they kicked ass at this year's U.S. Cup! (see page 65)

Denver: 601 West Alameda Avenue; Denver East: 4400 Grape Street; Northglenn: 470 Malley Drive; tgscolorado.com

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One Massive Cup

Over the 4/20 weekend in Denver, High Times mounted the biggest cannabis-industry expo ever. Call it one more signpost on the road to total legalization—and there's no turning back!

By Samantha Nicholas

Slightly Stoopid and Mac Miller performed at Red Rocks at a stoned Saturday night concert.

Both the medical and recreational products of Colorado's cannabis industry were honored.

KIM SIDWELL (2)

Thousands of stoners flocked to hundreds of booths at Denver Mart.

Attendees eagerly sampled a variety of strains.
(Below left) Sheriff T.J. Coates asks a question.
(Below right) A thematic bud costume for 4/20.

As the High Times staff arrived early Saturday morning at the Denver Mart, a sprawling expo center just north of downtown, eager ticketholders had already begun to form a line. By 10:30, a half-hour prior to the scheduled opening of the second U.S. Cannabis Cup in Colorado, the line snaked around the complex and beyond. Tens of thousands of stoners were primed for a weekend of weed celebration.

But delays ensued. Regardless of the new legal landscape that cannabis now enjoys in Colorado, intense scrutiny of the fledgling industry is the norm—and High Times was no exception. The Adams County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Marijuana Enforcement Division of the State Department of Revenue, thoroughly examined the event's intentions and activities. And on Saturday morning, the county fire marshal held organizers to the letter of the law, citing every potential violation.

At 11 a.m., the doors remained closed, while the line of attendees only lengthened. One has to wonder: Were alcohol- or pharmaceutical-industry trade shows ever subjected to this type of pre-event inspection? Doubtful. Nevertheless, High Times hurried to make the final adjustments, and just before noon, the doors opened and the crowd surged through the entrance gates into a stoner wonderland.

This was High Times' second U.S. Cannabis Cup in Colorado, but its fourth such event here. The 2011 and 2012 editions were Medical Cannabis Cups and featured medication areas open only to patients who had registered with the state to legally use

KIM SIDWELL, DAN SKYE (3)

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The massive cannabis crowd celebrated at 4:20 on 4/20.

Dougie from Hitman with his winning glass.

The Indica Vaporizer team does a brisk business at the Cup.

High-quality Colorado buds lured everyone in.

cannabis for their ailments. But when Colorado voters legalized the recreational use of pot 18 months ago, the 2013 Cup was able to welcome adults 21 and over from all over the country and the world, medical users or not, to partake in the celebration. Over 15,000 people attended last year, and the word of mouth leading up to this year's Cup necessitated doubling the size of the venue in 2014.

Once Denver Mart was chosen, ticket sales soared.

Needless to say, the expansive outdoor smoking area, filled with hundreds of booths dedicated to cannabis consumerism, was the first stop for nearly everyone. Not surprisingly, concentrate culture was on full display. Most cannabis users outside of Colorado have never encountered dabs and the enchanting, instantaneous buzz they induce. But newbies were anxious to try them for themselves—and the happy fact is that the tough industry controls and state requirements on dab production have resulted in some of the finest-quality concentrates we've ever encountered. Consequently, new dab fans were created throughout the weekend.

Cannabusinesses not tied specifically to consumption were able to showcase their merchandise in a spacious indoor

DAN SKYE (4)

the clinic
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HIGH TIMES U.S. CANNABIS CUP
DENVER, COLORADO 2014
1st Place
Best U.S. Concentrate
303 og nugrun live resin budder

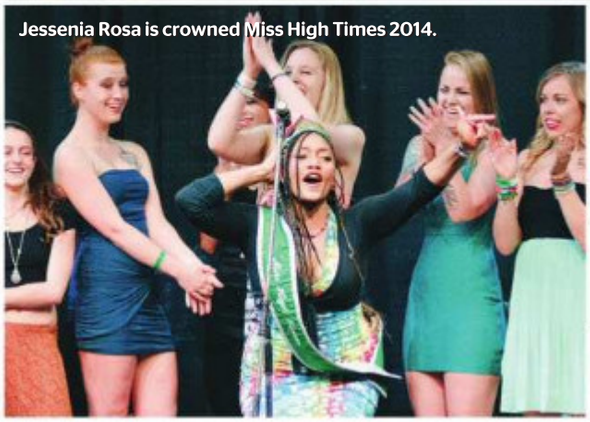
HIGH TIMES U.S. CANNABIS CUP
DENVER, COLORADO 2014
3rd Place
Best Medical Sativa
cherry pie

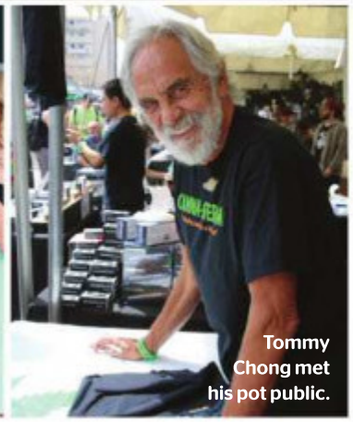
303 og nugrun live resin budder is a product of

the lab
infused products

#dabsallday #theclinic #thelabdab

Danny Danko led a lively cultivation seminar.


Jessenia Rosa is crowned Miss High Times 2014.

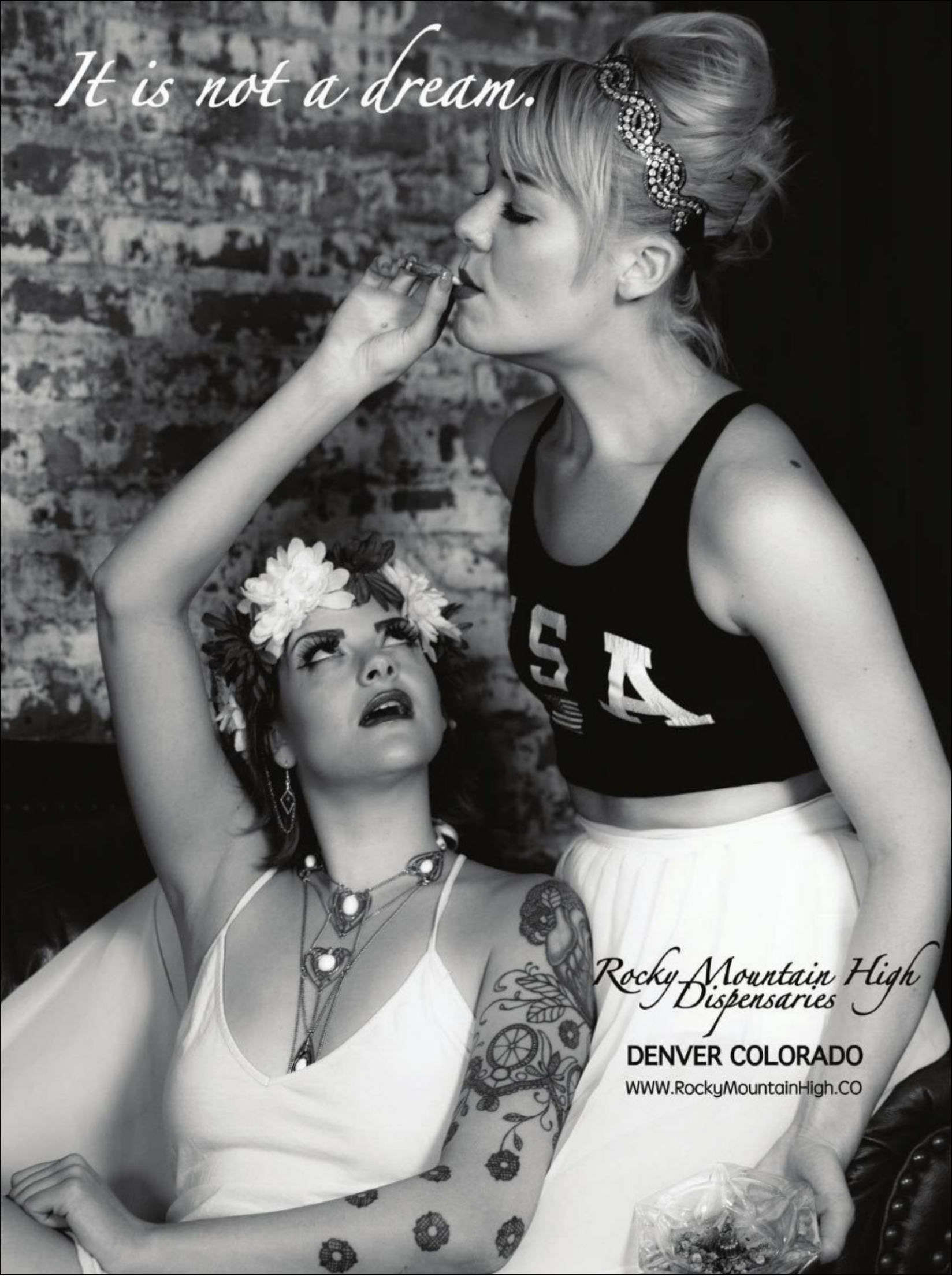

Tommy Chong met his pot public.

pavilion. Hourly seminars offered attendees a glimpse into what the future of legalization holds, as cannabis luminaries like Keith Stroup and Allen St. Pierre of NORML and Mason Tvert, who led the Rocky Mountain State over the legalization finish line, weighed in. Denver pot-shop entrepreneurs Brooke Gehring of Patients' Choice and Ryan Cook of the Clinic sat on panels exploring the subject of how to open a cannabusiness.

The biggest crowd attended *High Times* senior cultivation editor Danny Danko's seminar, which featured an all-star lineup of garden experts. As always, urgent cultivation queries came from the audience during the Q&A session. But everyone was a bit surprised when Sheriff T.J. Coates of Adams County stepped up to the microphone with his question: "How do you feel about industrial-size grows in residential neighborhoods?"

Legendary breeder D.J. Short answered quickly and categorically: "They have no business at all!" But then he added that Colorado citizens should be entitled to grow a small pot garden, indoors or out. For his part, Danko observed that prohibition has been the cause of these problems and that, once this archaic policy crumbles completely,

DAN SKYE (2), KIM SIDWELL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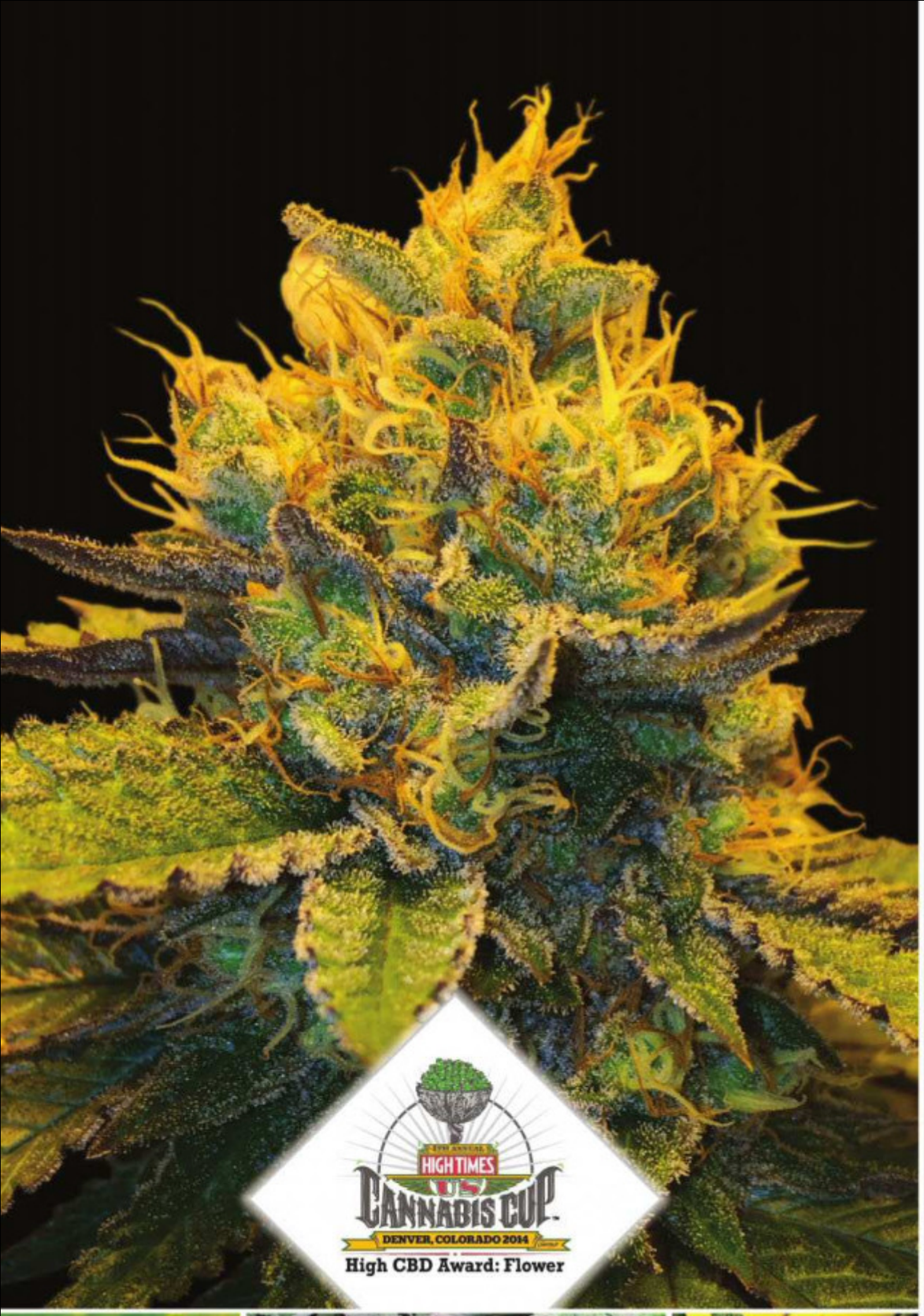
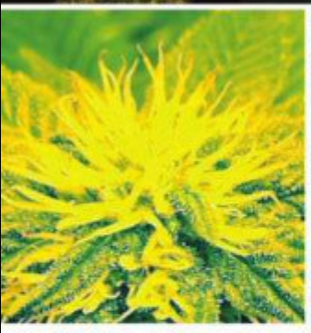
Through our charitable outreach program, the HOPE Foundation provides powerful opportunities to share global health knowledge, research and education as well as tested cannabinoid medicine to people with debilitating medical conditions.

Headquartered in Colorado and strategically partnered with leading local cultivators and award-winning caregivers, we are able to provide the most comprehensive profile of CBD genetics in the world. From the only reported 48:1 ratio CBD:THC cannabis plant, to several varieties of 24:1 (including the R4 aka 'Charlotte's Web'), to 3:1, 2:1 and 1:1 ratios above 20% total cannabinoids—provided in any concentration, at customized dosing, with no waiting lists, NDAs or other restrictions.

www.floweringhopefoundation.org

The Flowering H.O.P.E. Foundation is a Colorado based nonprofit 501(c)3 organization (status pending).





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AC/DC
24:1

R4 (Charlotte's Web)
24:1

The Remedy
24:1

Haleigh's Hope
24:1 - 19% CBD

CannaTsu #19
5:1 - 10% CBD

Omrita RX
4:1

CannaTsu (Ringo cut)
3:1 - 17% CBD

Cannatonic1
2:1 - 14% CBD

CannaTsu #29
2:1 - 12% CBD

Otto1 #12
2:1 - 12% CBD

Harlequin
2:1 - 8% CBD

Swiss Gold
2:1 - 7% CBD

Pineapple Tsunami
2:1

Hillbilly Armor
1:3 - 5% CBD

Sour Tsunami
1:1 - 4% CBD

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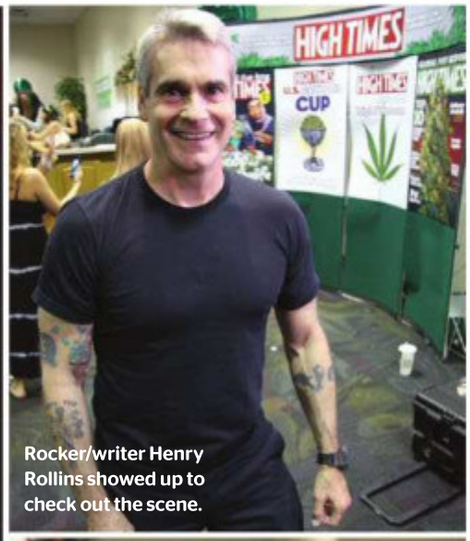
Ice Cube kicked off the Cup with a smokin' Friday night performance.



Rocker/writer Henry Rollins showed up to check out the scene.

Rob Corry's lecture was "tripped" up.

a new culture of marijuana sanity would discourage unneighborly growing practices like that on every level.

Top pot attorney Rob Corry provided his own take on the future of Colorado cannabis in a well-attended lecture that was highlighted by an audience member's unfortunate decision to charge the speaker's podium and take a swing at Corry. After landing a glancing blow, the man attempted to run off but was quickly subdued. Corry was unhurt and declined to press charges. His assailant was tripping on something or other extremely hard—*and it certainly wasn't pot!* The man was oblivious to what he'd done and only dimly aware of who or where he was. As for Corry, he laughed the incident off, saying: "A lot of people feel that way about me."

The weekend packed a punch too, with three nights of memorable concerts. Ice Cube stoked everyone's excitement with a pre-Cup concert on Friday night. His performance brought to mind a stomping, snorting bull, barely able to control his fury. In a word, Ice Cube killed. Saturday night saw Mac Miller and Slightly Stoopid kick ass at the Red Rocks Amphitheater, while Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa took the same stage on

DAN SKYE (3)

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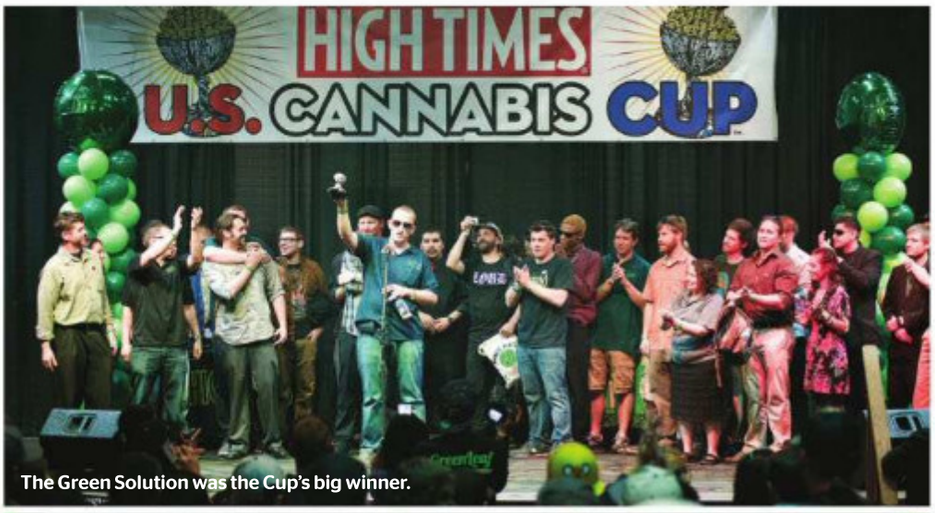

The Green Solution was the Cup's big winner.

Green Man Cannabis celebrates their win for Best U.S. *Sativa*.

Sunday night to top off the Cup.

On Sunday evening at Denver Mart, the Cannabis Cup awards ceremony got underway, with Colorado's cannabis industry awaiting the announcement of the winners in rapt anticipation. The Green Solution, among the most prominent of Denver's dispensary chains, were the big winners, walking away with two People's Choice Cups (for hash and flowers) as well as three third-place finishes (for U.S. *Indica*, U.S. *Sativa* and Medical Hybrid). Previous winners like The Clinic grabbed the Cup for Best U.S. Concentrate, while Green Man Cannabis picked up top honors for Best U.S. *Sativa*. (Incidentally, Green Man's cultivation director, Corey, now has four Cannabis Cups to show for his work.) Cloud Penz won two awards, for Best Vaporizer and Best Booth, while Hitman Glass earned a well-deserved top prize for Best Glass.

No one knows what the future holds for legalization nationwide. But if Colorado's example is any indication—allowing responsible adults to use a healing plant without fear of harassment, and reaping ample economic benefits by doing so—perhaps the cannabis community can at least partially fulfill America's promise of liberty for all.

KIM SIDWELL (2)

cam

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2ND PLACE MEDICAL CUP
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BEST BOOTH
1st Place – Cloud Penz
2nd Place – Incredibowl
3rd Place – Nexus Glass

BEST PRODUCT
1st Place – Incredibowl Inc. Redibowl
2nd Place – Oil Slick - Oil Slick
3rd Place – Sour Kush Kids Baked Bros

BEST GLASS
1st Place – Hitman Glass
2nd Place – Cloud 9 Head Shop
3rd Place – Halo by Nexus Glass

BEST VAPORIZER
1st – Cloud Penz by Cloud Penz
2nd - o.pen by o.penVAPE
3rd - Cloud V by Cloud V

BEST GLASS ARTIST
1st - Creep Glass
2nd - Salt
3rd - Apple Butter

HIGH CBD AWARD
Flower – Hillbilly Armor from Elite Cannabis Enterprises
Concentrate – PureCBD's 99% CBD Concentrate from Summit Chocolate Company
Edible – High CBD Dark Chocolate Cherry Bar from Medibrothers

BEST MEDICAL EDIBLE
1st Place - Mystic CBD Capsules from Natural Mystic Cannabis Caregivers
2nd Place - Bhang Cherries & Cream 180 mg Bar from Summit & Baked
3rd Place - One Eye Open Sativa-Based Lemonade / Black Tea from MarQaha

BEST U.S. EDIBLE
1st Place - Liquid Gold Delights Orange Meltaway Truffles from G Farma Labs
2nd Place - Cinnamon Roll Crunch from Kushie Kandy
3rd Place - Reef Jerky from Badfish Extracts

BEST MEDICAL NON-SOLVENT HASH
1st Place - Blueberry Waltz from Natural Mystic Cannabis Caregivers
2nd Place - Sour Lemon OG Solventless from Essential Extracts & Trill Alternatives
3rd Place - HGH Cookies Solventless from HGH Extractions & Pure Medical

BEST U.S. NON-SOLVENT HASH
1st Place - White OG Solventless Wax from Essential Extracts & Down With Dirt
2nd Place - Boss Ice Wax from Infuzionz
3rd Place - Bruce Banner #3 from RiverRock Adult Use & Trichome Heavy Extractions

BEST MEDICAL CONCENTRATE
1st Place - Sour Jilly from Green Dream & TC Labs
2nd Place - Jilly Bean from Stay Concentrated Extracts
3rd Place - South African Durban Poison Wax from Advanced Medical Alternatives & Dab City Concentrates

BEST U.S. CONCENTRATE
1st Place - 303 OG Nug Run Sugar Budder from The Clinic & Emotek Labs
2nd Place - Lemon Walker OG from TC Labs & Gold Coast Collective
3rd Place - Willy Wonka Sativa BHO from High Class Concentrates

BEST MEDICAL HYBRID
1st Place - Pure Power Plant from Good Meds Network
2nd Place - Chem Crush from La Contes
3rd Place - Golden Goat from the Green Solution

BEST U.S. HYBRID
1st Place - Cookies & Cream from Exotic Genetix
2nd Place - Colorado Chem from Cannables
3rd Place - Cinderella 99 x White from Natural Remedies

BEST MEDICAL SATIVA
1st Place - Jilly Bean #1 from Standing Akimbo
2nd Place - Durban Poison from Denver Relief
3rd Place - Cherry Pie from The Clinic

BEST U.S. SATIVA
1st Place - Ghost Train Haze from Green Man Cannabis
2nd Place - Super Silver Haze from Life is Good Healing
3rd Place - Twista from The Green Solution

BEST MEDICAL INDICA
1st Place - Larry OG from MMJ America
2nd Place - Raskal OG from Colorado Alternative Medicine
3rd Place - Denver Maple from Ballpark Holistic Dispensary

BEST U.S. INDICA
1st Place - South Central LA from Colorado Alternative Medicine & Root Seller Seeds
2nd Place - Grand Daddy Purple from Cannables
3rd Place - MK Ultra from The Green Solution

PEOPLE'S CHOICE CUP: Hash
1st Place - Golden Goat Shatter - Infuzionz powered by The Green Solution
2nd Place - Jilly Bean Shatter from 710 Labs/ Bud Med Health Center
3rd Place - K1 Shatter from New Age Medical

PEOPLE'S CHOICE CUP: Flowers
1st Place - Presidential Kush from The Green Solution
2nd Place - Death Star from New Age Medical
3rd Place - Sour Diesel from Walking Raven Retail Marijuana Center

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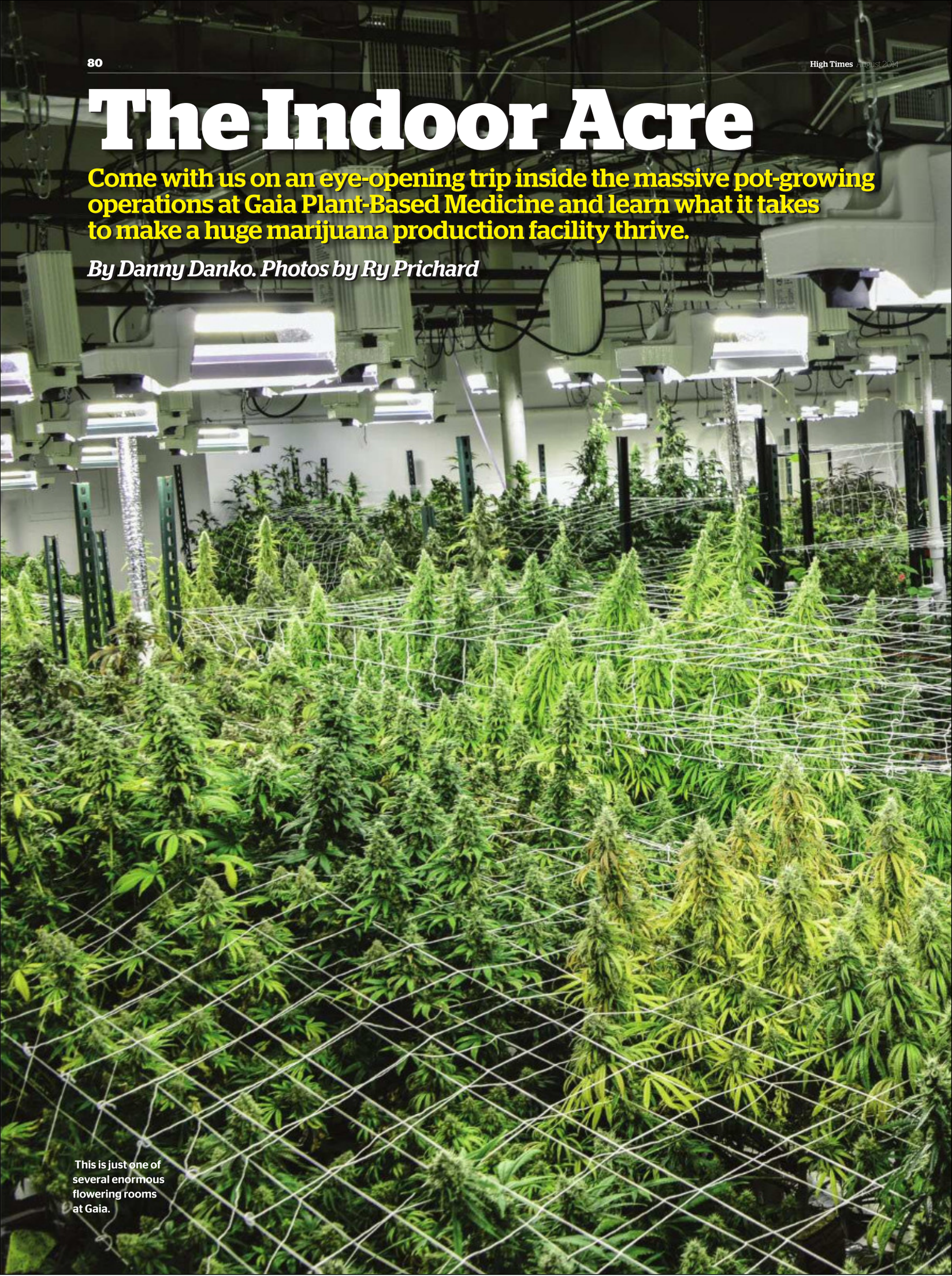
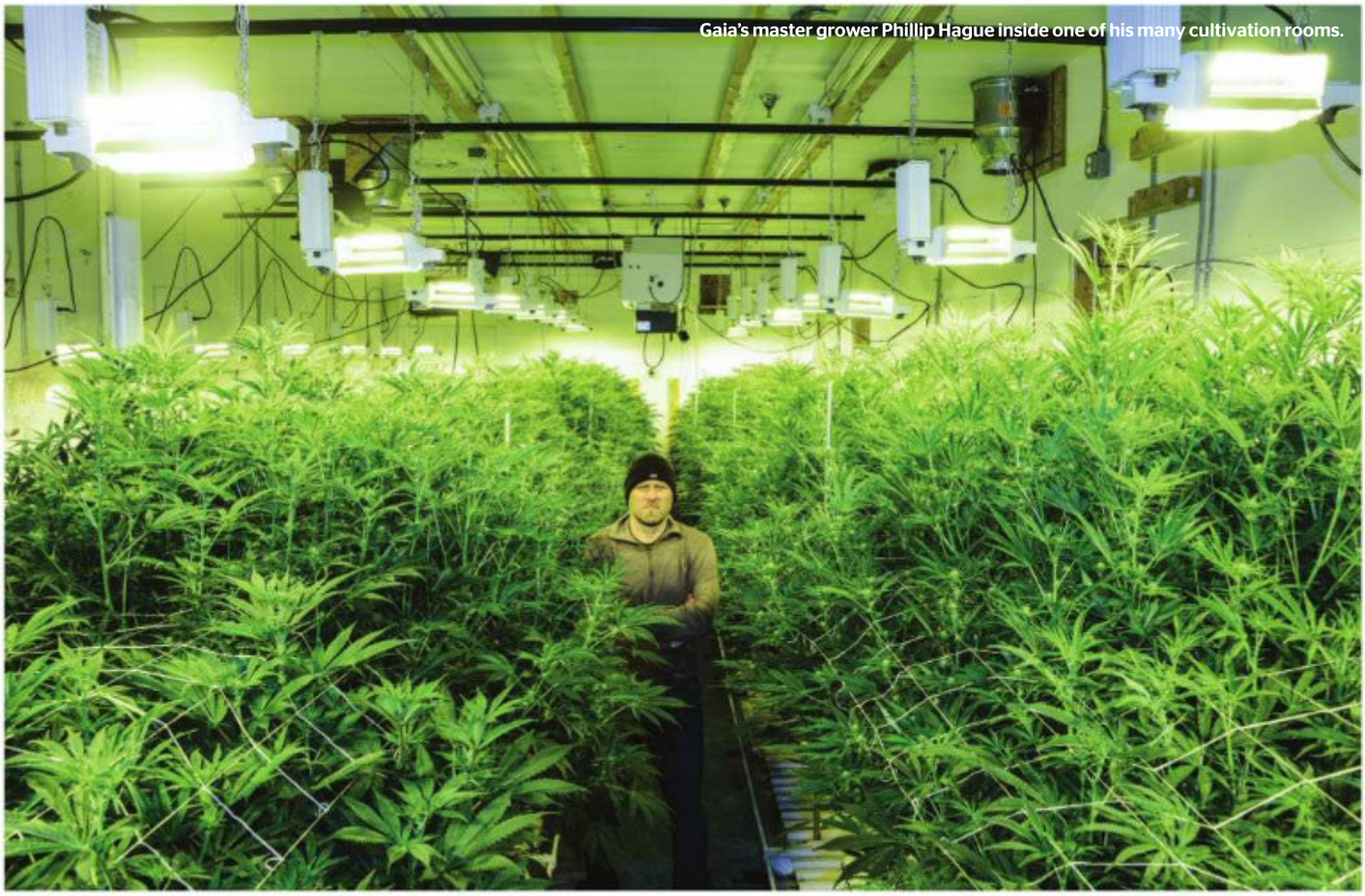
The Indoor Acre

Come with us on an eye-opening trip inside the massive pot-growing operations at Gaia Plant-Based Medicine and learn what it takes to make a huge marijuana production facility thrive.

By Danny Danko. Photos by Ry Prichard



This is just one of several enormous flowering rooms at Gaia.


Gaia's master grower Phillip Hague inside one of his many cultivation rooms.

Good Gaia!

Walking into the headquarters of Gaia Plant-Based Medicine, it's easy to forget that indoor marijuana growrooms this size have existed for only a few years. For those of us who grew up thinking that 20 lights was a big-time grow, the numbers are staggering: Gaia's eight full-time cultivators work in a vast, 44,000-square-foot facility that grows over 20,000 plants. That's more than an acre of space!

Consider some more numbers: There are 800 1,000-watt lights in the 10 flowering warehouses alone. The vegetation stage occurs beneath nearly 170 grow bulbs. More than 240 total strains are grown here in a perpetual-harvest fashion to produce hundreds of pounds of pot per week. All plants are tagged with radio-frequency identification (RFID) codes from seed to sale. Huge heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems are utilized to keep everything cool. Now consider that there are many operations just like this sprouting up all over Colorado, and you begin to understand the scale and scope of the change that is now underway.

Master grower Phillip Hague oversees the entire operation at Gaia. He moved from Texas to Denver a few years back in order to grow pot legally and bring his unique perspective to cannabis farming. With a background in the large-scale horticultural production of fruits, vegetables and flowers, Phillip's expertise allows him to handle the enormous challenge presented by Gaia's facilities.

The key to his success is his in-depth understanding of traditional cultivation techniques employed on such a huge scale, combined with a connoisseur's palate for acquiring and appreciating fine cannabis. Phillip's ample quiver of strains includes unique landrace varieties collected direct from their place of origin. Working as an agricultural consultant gave him access to areas that many other growers have found difficult to visit, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Kashmir as well as countries in South America and North Africa.

But the real secret to Phillip's success is his obvious devotion to the cannabis plant. As F. Scott Fitzgerald illustrated in *The Great Gatsby,* you don't dream this big for money, only for love. And Phillip is head over heels for the flower, but his Daisy isn't a daisy at all; she's Mary Jane. As he says when we start the tour, "It doesn't have to be an inferior product just because it's mass-produced."

Back to the Start

In order for any grow system to work properly, the quality of the water used is of the utmost importance. The growers at Gaia collect their water in massive reservoir tanks. First, they put it through a de-chlorinator and then a reverse-osmosis (RO) filter so they can start with water that's almost 0 ppm (parts per million) impurities. As Phillip explains, "Chlorine will ruin an RO filter because the chlorimides poke holes in it, causing unfiltered water to leak through the membrane. You could have contaminated water and not even know it!"

Send in the Clones

For a massive grow op like this to exist, veg and clone masters Matt Ross and Austin Sims must root up to 2,200 clones *per week*. Without these healthy rooted cuttings, things would quickly fall apart: With only 10 to 14 days from the moment they take the cuttings (from Phillip's huge arsenal of mother plants) to the moment those cuttings leave the clone area for the vegetative rooms, Matt and Austin must work with a well-practiced efficiency to ensure success.

The rockwool cubes they use are soaked in a nutrient solution that measures from 5.0 to 5.5 pH. The clones are

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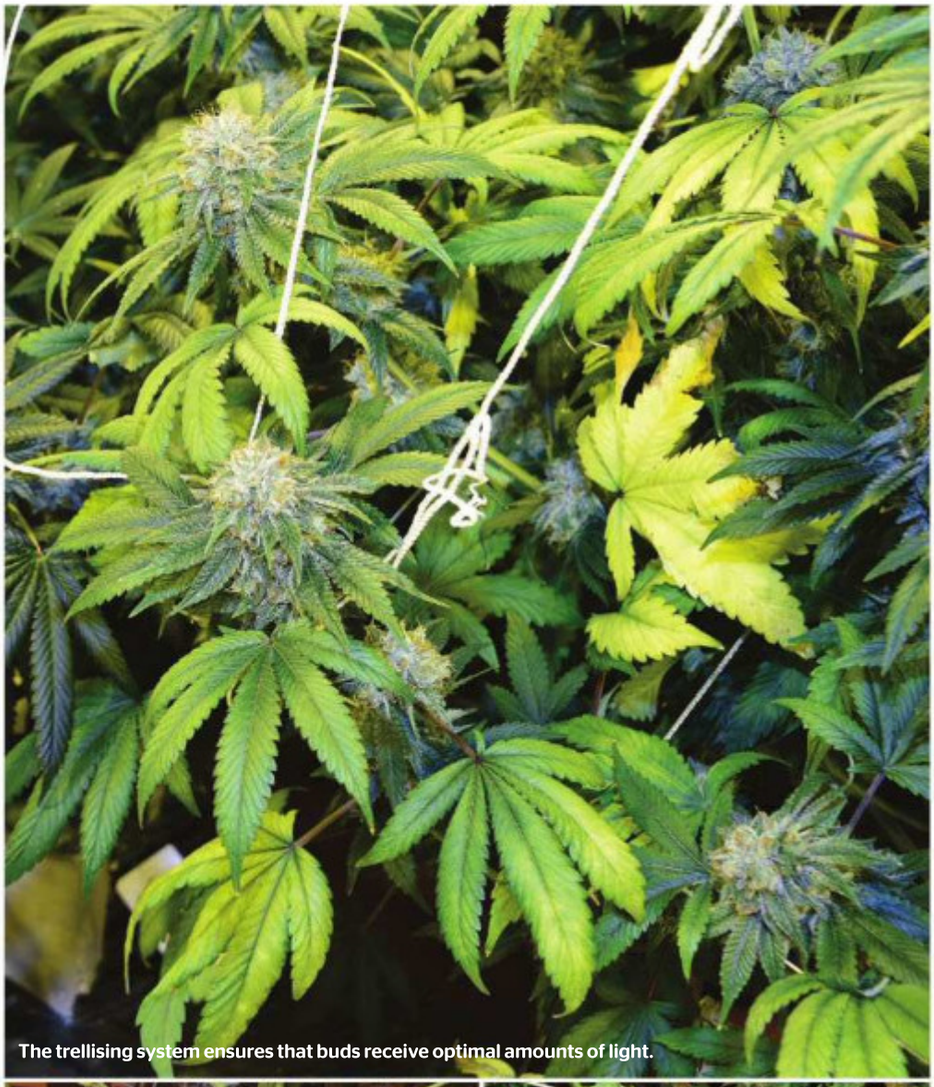

The trellising system ensures that buds receive optimal amounts of light.

Rockwool cubes on top of rockwool slabs provide high levels of oxygen to growing roots.

The slabs sit on slanted tables to allow for runoff of nutrient solution.

fed plain water and hormones until they begin to look just a little yellow. Then they're upgraded to 4-inch rockwool vegging blocks and given General Hydroponics and New Millennium nutes plus raw nutrient salts.

One of Phillip's secrets to cloning success is that the cuttings root faster with less light; that's why the fluorescent banks are raised so high here. The fan leaves are clipped and the cuttings are placed under Hydrofarm T5 fluorescent lights to root. All of the clones are equipped with MITS (Marijuana Inventory Tracking System) tags that remain with them through harvest.

The expert growers at Gaia also root their clones in trays with no clear humidity lids. As Matt explains, "We keep them dryer than most. We also don't use domes, instead keeping the humidity in the entire room up above 70% and warm. Removing domes causes stress that we end up avoiding." Austin offers a couple more cloning tips: "Always use healthy mother plants, and from the moment you cut them, move quickly to get them into their medium."

The propagation room holds thousands of rooted clones ready to begin their vegetative stage.

Let's Veg Out

Rooted clones are moved into the vegging area and placed under a total of 168 1,000-watt metal halide (MH) lights. The 4-inch blocks are placed on top of rockwool or coco trays with drip emitters timed to release nutrient solution depending on the plants' needs. Similar to the cloning regimen, the plants are fed raw nutrient salts along with calcium nitrate as a supplement.

As the plants grow, they're topped into round bushes with many branches. The growers at Gaia also have bean vines growing among the pot plants; these serve as "canaries in the coal mine" to indicate mites. (In fact, mites are actually drawn from the cannabis plants to the bean vines' leaves.) Phillip's growers also use integrated pest management (IPM) techniques early on, and then beneficial insects—up to five different species of predator mites.

At the time of my visit, the growers at Gaia were using rockwool slabs for about half the plants and coco coir for the rest. The coco is more forgiving, Phillip tells me, since using rockwool is like driving a Ferrari: "It's the fastest and most powerful—but any hiccup or bump in the road will slow you *way* down."

Flower Power

Phillip is in the process of switching all of his lighting in the flowering rooms to Philips ePapillon double-ended plasma bulbs. The light from these bulbs is incredibly intense; even wearing Method Seven growroom shades, I found it almost impossible to look at them directly. Phillip says the smaller hoods displace the light better, spreading it out more evenly and allowing him to use less wattage to light his space. I ask about the average yield he gets with them. "We typically get about a pound and a half per light," he says, "but sometimes more than two."

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The trellis in action as plants near harvesttime.

All of the tables and trays are on wheels for easy mobility. The rockwool or coco slabs sit on corrugated plastic that allows the excess solution to run off and not collect in the trays when the drippers do their thing. An industrial air compressor runs air through the drip lines to prevent any potential stoppages. This is important, because the rockwool cannot be allowed to dry out completely or the plants will die.

As you might imagine, efficiency is of the utmost importance when you're dealing with so many plants. "When I took this place over," Phillip tells me, "it was all individual buckets being hand-watered. Pots are for selling plants, not for production. Most big grows have a grower for every 20 to 40 lights, but we only need one per 100. I trust my growers' ability to handle the work, and they, in turn, find ways to work better."

Indeed, as we tour the facility's many rooms, I speak with Skyler and Jackson, two of Gaia's blooming experts. Skyler tells me: "We take care of our rooms nonstop fixing problems. There's always something to do, and we're in panic mode at all times. It's fun!" Jackson adds: "We get to grow so much, at such an abundant level, so we've seen every problem and solved it. Every once in a while, we get to stop and smell the flowers, but it's rare. It's hard work, but we love this job!"

All of the rooms use industrial CO_2 injection, timed to release the gas when the lights are on. The flowers I saw were thriving and forming huge colas, while their roots were bursting out of the bags holding the grow slabs. In an unusual twist for Colorado's notoriously dry climate, these plants give out so much moisture that the growers typically have to dehumidify the rooms for the AC units to work.

Phillip prefers General Hydroponic nutrients for early flowering and then switches over to New Millennium after a few weeks. "I'm also experimenting with the Kimitek aminos from Spain," he says. "It smells like high-end soy sauce, is super-stable and won't clog drippers." For the plants growing in rockwool, the growers do a five- to 10-day flush.

Rockwool: Good or Bad?

I ask Phillip if he's concerned about the environmental impact of all the rockwool that he uses. He responds, "I purchase more rockwool than anyone else in this state—at least that's what the people I buy it from tell me. People complain about the environmental effects and impact of rockwool, but I use one-third the amount of water I would use with a traditional soilless-mix grow. Plus all of our spent rockwool goes to a recycling facility and is ground up and reused by fruit producers as mulch.

"As far as I'm concerned," he adds, "peat moss is probably the worst when it comes to impact. Those bogs take thousands of years to form. Then all the vegetation is stripped and they mine the various layers. Rockwool is puffed and spun limestone—an abundant source. Concrete is made from limestone. It's everywhere."

Phillip's environmental concern extends beyond the growing medium. Gaia uses economizers on all of its HVAC cooling units, which bring in HEPA-filtered air from the outside when it's cold.

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Purple Urkel drying before the final trim and cure.

Strains

With over 240 varieties to choose from, I couldn't possibly discuss all of Gaia's strains, so I picked five choice ones and asked Phillip to give me a few words on each:

ECPC (East Coast Panama Chunk)

"We pronounce this like 'easy-peasy.' She's a great-yielding, super-racy *sativa* that produces incredible concentrates."

Highwayman (William's Wonder x Tang Tang)

"Simply the frostiest plant I've ever grown—total resin overload! This is stuff you can smoke all day. I call it 'everyday weed.'"

Killer Queen x Tom Hill's Haze

"This is our entry for the 2014 High Times Denver Cannabis Cup. She's a classic *sativa* with that familiar Haze scent and growing pattern."

Black Cherry Soda

"BCS is a super-sweet, *indica*-dominant hybrid. She matures to a purple-black color and boasts a scent of cherry-vanilla soda fizz."

Purple Urkel

"This is the famous Urkel cut from NorCal. This one flowers in only 45 to 50 days and turns lavender early and darker purple late."

Post-Harvest

The responsibility for supervising the drying, trimming and curing of all these harvested plants falls on Gaia's processing manager, Christina Moore. Thanks to more than a decade's worth of experience working in the commercial cannabis industry, first in California and now in Denver, as well as managing and training people in various capacities, Christina is well prepared to oversee the preparation of these plants. Her task is to get them from the growroom to the retail store in their optimum state and at their highest level of quality.

For that reason, there are no industrial-size trimming machines on the premises here. Christina insists that every gram must be hand-trimmed, and a team of 12 trimmers will work around the clock at times. It looks like a fun gig, sitting around a table with your co-workers, carefully snipping away the leaves to produce a connoisseur-quality product for patients and recreational users alike.

The plants are first cut down and the trellising removed; the ID tags travel with them. The plants are weighed to record their original wet weight, and then the fan leaves are removed. Whole plants are hung to dry for two to three weeks in a climate-controlled area set to 60% humidity and a temperature of 60°F to 70°F. Then the sugar leaves are trimmed off and the buds go into the curing room.

The buds are cured in plastic bins at 40% to 50% humidity, depending on the plant. (All of this changes seasonally as well, depending on the climate.) The bins are "burped" once or twice a day, with some being left open for an hour or so to remove the excess moisture. After three weeks of curing, the buds are ready for sale.

I ask Christina about the difference between processing a few plants and processing several hundred at a time. "Processing and production in an industrial capacity is completely different from a small or home grow," she replies. "The harvest, dry and cure are all based on the plants' schedule, not us humans', and therefore the process is scheduled and organized—yet it can be chaotic and hectic at times. Adaptability is key … and being really good at utilizing the available space."

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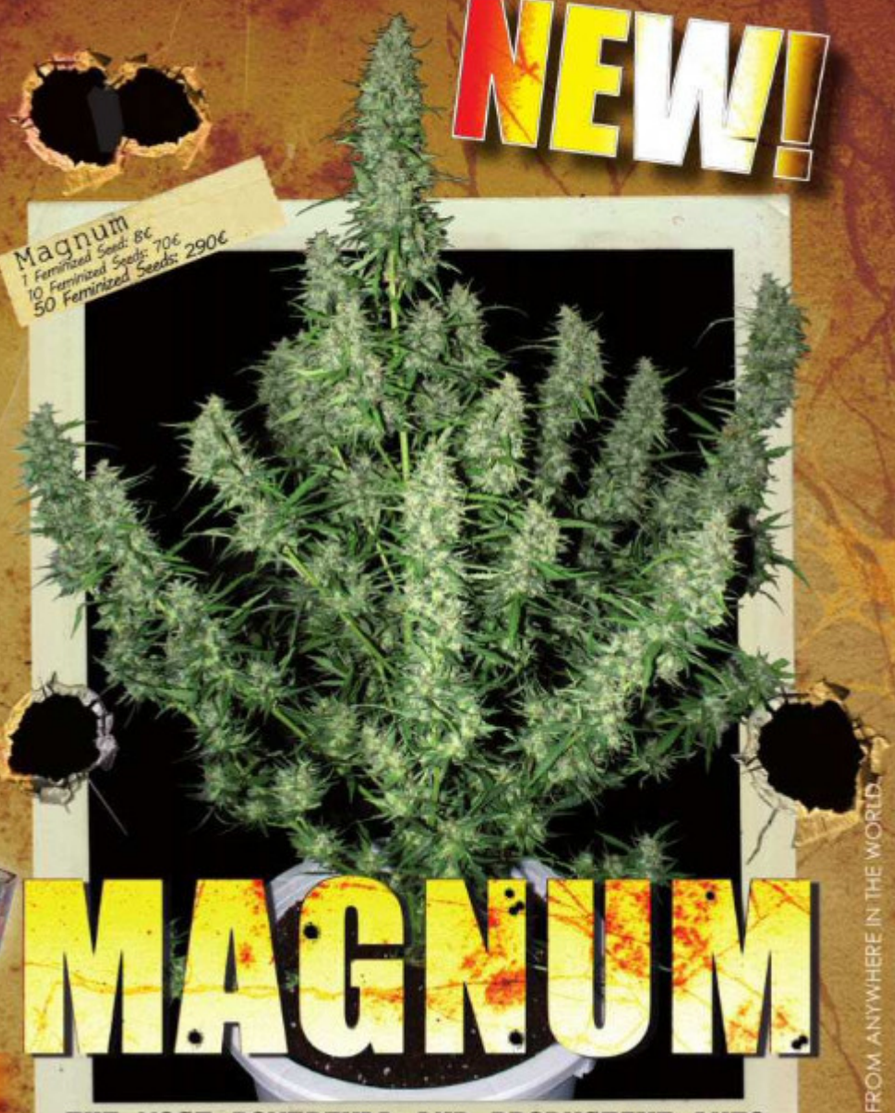

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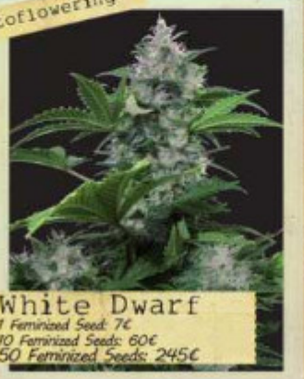

White Dwarf
1 Feminized Seed: 7€
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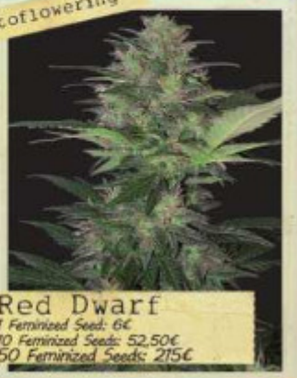

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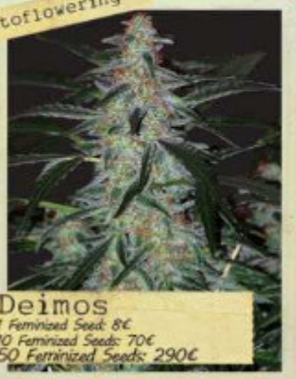

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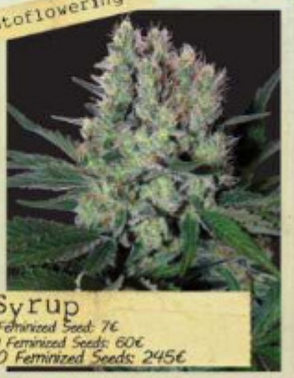

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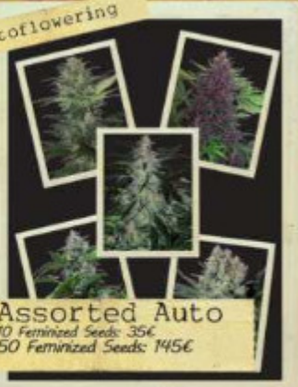

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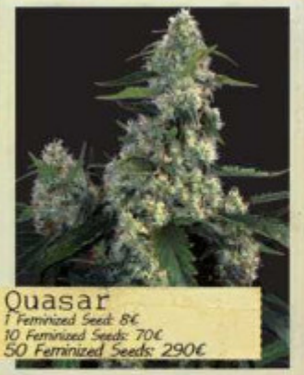

Quasar
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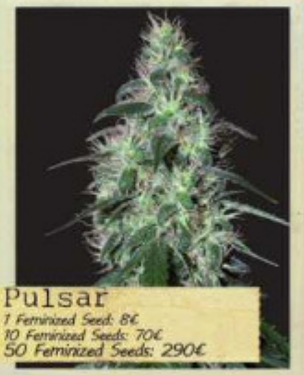

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Bins hold product awaiting further processing.

Whole-Plant Concentrates

The growers at Gaia Plant-Based Medicine have an interesting view on the production of hash oil. They use a closed-loop system running fresh-frozen whole plants to provide more of the essence of the cannabis plant, with the trichomes preserved just like the day they were harvested. Gaia calls its finished product "live resin," and it's produced using medical-grade butane. Phillip shows me freezers full of entire plants, the colas and other branches frozen solid inside bags and waiting to be turned into gooey slabs.

It doesn't have to be an inferior product, just because it's mass produced.

It's a cleaner product, he says, with no mineral oils or mercaptans. The results are then dewaxed and purged. What's left isn't quite shatter, and it's certainly not wax at all. It's a bit more pliant than shatter and resembles a light-colored pine tar. This "live resin" smells exactly like the flowering plants I saw on my tour. Its scent and flavor are surpassed only by the high—a potent, long-lasting effect that is experienced in both the body and the mind.

Quantity and Quality

I left Gaia Plant-Based Medicine with the distinct feeling that places like this are here to stay. The genie has burst free of the bottle, and now that marijuana is being grown at an industrial level, there's (hopefully) no turning back. What amazed me most was the quality of the medicine being produced here. Kudos to Phillip and the entire Gaia team for putting their medical patients and recreational customers first by creating high-quality cannabis on such a massive scale!

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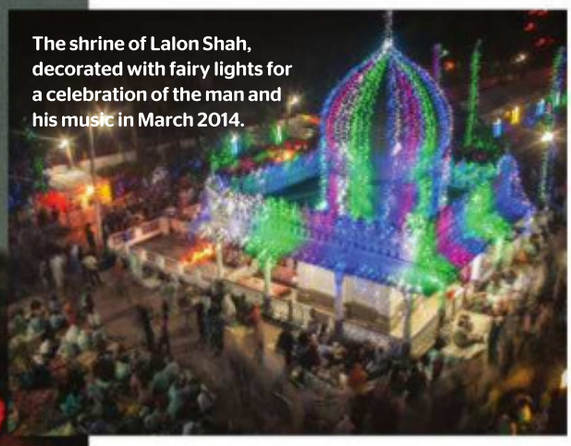
An elderly Baul draws from a pipe at the Lalon festival.

The Marijuana Minstrels of Bangladesh

For hundreds of years, the Bauls have been celebrating the legacy of Lalon Shah, whose spiritual songs, sung under the influence of cannabis, are said to connect men and women with the divinity inside themselves. *Story & Photos by Joseph Allchin*

A loud and smoky temporary shrine, with a devotee drumming in celebration, near the main shrine of Lalon Shah.



The shrine of Lalon Shah, decorated with fairy lights for a celebration of the man and his music in March 2014.

Bangladesh, the eighth-largest country in the world in terms of population, is an overwhelmingly Muslim nation. But beneath this statistical uniformity lies a sect, the Bauls, that for centuries has championed a spirituality beyond the concepts of traditional religion, powered by pot and helping to maintain a surprisingly resilient counterculture in the South Asian delta region.

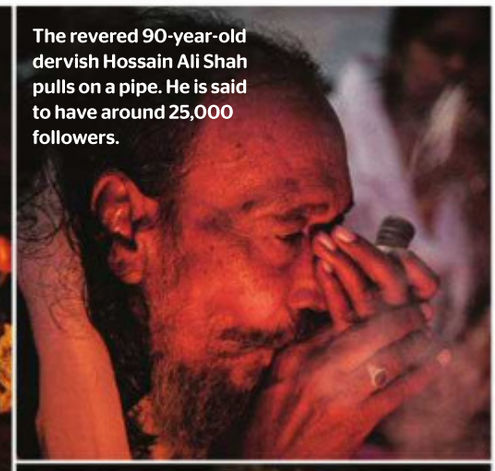
The origins of the Bauls are hard to trace (the word itself means something like "crazy with enlightenment"), but the name Lalon Shah, the best-known contributor to the Baul tradition, figures prominently. Sometime in the 1780s, around the age of 12, Lalon is said to have been pulled from the Ganges River, unconscious and suffering from smallpox. He had possibly been abandoned by the people he'd been traveling with, and he was nursed back to health by his rescuers, who were members of a small Muslim village in the district of Kushtia. As he got older, Lalon never learned to read or write, but he had a profound lyrical and musical gift, the power of which endures to this day, influencing the likes of Allen Ginsberg and Rabindranath Tagore (the first Asian recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature, who composed the national anthems of both India and Bangladesh), as well as the culture of this vast region.

Kushtia has become central to Lalon's legacy. This unassuming district in western Bangladesh holds two festivals in his honor, one in March and the other in October. Hundreds of thousands flock to Lalon's shrine to sing, smoke and spiritualize in distinctly unorthodox fashion. The Bauls are typically longhaired minstrels, dressed in flowing robes and the occasional dreadlock, with that timeworn look that rock stars and backpacking Western travelers have aspired to since the 1960s. UNESCO has even hailed the Bauls' culture and songs as part of the "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity."

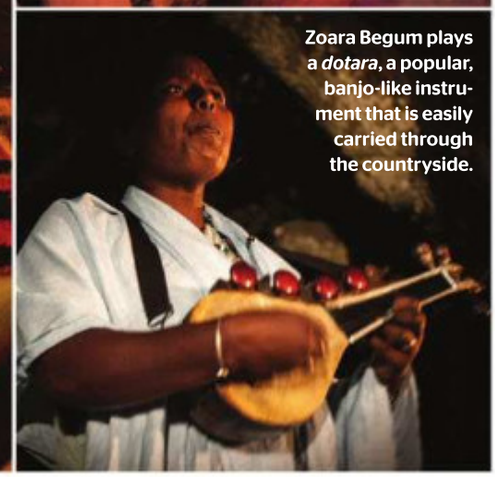
On the night before the March festival, I arrive in the village of Souta for a *sadhu songho* with Maqsood (Mac) Haque, a rock star from the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, who is an adherent. The *sadhu songho*, Mac says, is a "conclave of the wise." He is accompanied by a dozen Baul musicians, who set up beneath a mango tree to play music and sing the devotional songs composed by Lalon. The entire evening will be a series of spiritual ceremonies dominated by music that features his far-sighted and moving lyrics, culminating in a communal meal. These gatherings have kept Lalon's tradition and philosophy alive aurally, spreading it, as has happened now for centuries, through rural, open-air jam sessions.

As the Baul musicians make their ritual offerings to one another and start warming up their lutes, we hear chanting from a nearby hut. It comes from a group composed solely of men, all dressed in Arabic costume. "Wahhabi bastards," Mac explains dourly, "trying to distract us."

A pipe stall at the Lalon festival displaying paraphernalia essential to the celebration.



The revered 90-year-old dervish Hossain Ali Shah pulls on a pipe. He is said to have around 25,000 followers.



Zoara Begum plays a *dotara*, a popular, banjo-like instrument that is easily carried through the countryside.

The Wahhabi have their own tradition, about as far from the Bauls' as can be imagined. Preaching a strict adherence to an unsparing version of Islam, Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab was a religious firebrand who also lived in the 18th century. Unlike Lalon, however, al-Wahhab's teachings would go on to inspire draconian, conservative regimes—in particular the House of Saud, which still reigns tyrannically over its desert kingdom. (In fact, the Saudi regime recently promulgated laws making atheism a "terrorist offense.") In Bangladesh, these Islamists are well-funded and well-organized. Although their largest political party, the Jamaat-e-Islami, rarely gets more than 5 percent of the vote, it formed a coalition with the center-right Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in 2001, which gave it control over important positions in the government until 2006. "When the BNP and Jamaat were in power, we had a lot of problems," Mac recalls.

Professor Jeanne Openshaw, an expert on Baul culture at the United Kingdom's Edinburgh University, agrees: "A lot of *sadhu songhos* were broken up, that sort of thing." The Bauls, she adds, "have been persecuted by orthodox, fundamentalist elements since the 19th century."

The differences between al-Wahhab and Lalon are stark: Lalon was uninterested in his own historical legacy or in legitimizing the rule of princes and kings. "He wouldn't even have wanted a shrine," Mac observes wryly. Lalon's teachings opposed any concept of nationalism or sectarian religion, and instead focused on finding the truth—or God—in one's self. According to legend, after being saved from the river, Lalon claimed no memory of his family, least of all whether it was Hindu or Muslim. His philosophy consisted of universal truths conveyed to rural folk in a gripping, lyrical style that rejected talk of any high-and-mighty distant overlord, secular or religious. His songs are open to interpretation, and their rich tradition is kept alive by gurus—adherents or experts who recite and sing them to listeners, adding their own take. (Lalon never wrote down any of his lyrics, which have been passed down orally over the centuries.) Thus, says Openshaw, the Bauls are not a "homogenous" entity, but rather a freewheeling subculture that thrives on metaphysical discussion and debate.

This is a challenging situation for orthodox Islam, which tends to discourage conflicting interpretations within its major sects: the closer you hew to the word of God, the better off you are. In this sense, the Prophet Muhammad was *not* divine; only the words he received from God were, as recorded in the Quran. As a result, orthodox Islam venerates a holy book and its immutable words, while the Bauls emphasize that religion is relative to a particular time (and place). Or, as Openshaw writes, the Bauls specifically reject Hindu and Muslim orthodoxy, "equating all as human beings."

"The centrality of women" in the movement and its songs is a "striking" example of this, says Abu Ahasan, a researcher based in Dhaka and an occasional Baul journeyman. He compares it to "feminism, far before Simone de Beauvoir," taking root in the region's generally male-dominated societies.

Zoara Begum is a case in point. She began performing Baul music at the age of five. She is an uncharacteristically strong female in a sea of torrid patriarchy, as well as a performer of considerable talent and repute. Her vibrant yet mournful voice pierces the night air with far more power than most of her fellow male musicians. Zoara still bears the scars from when her father would violently punish her for not practicing as a young girl. She now performs on television, while her husband runs a small teashop to keep the family fed and singing.

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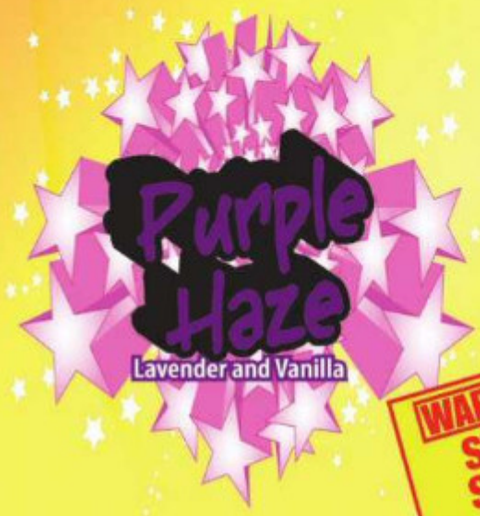

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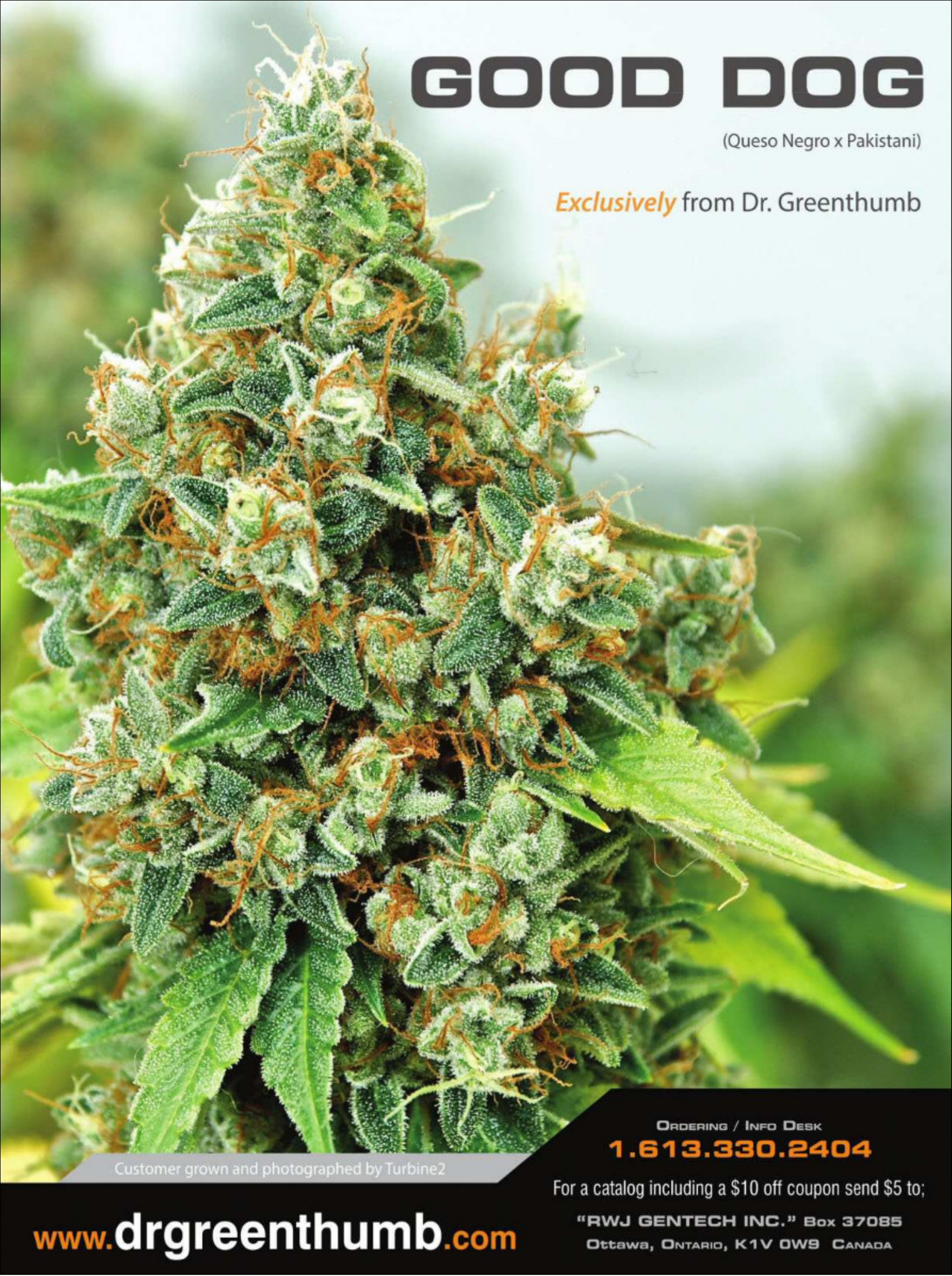
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Lalon's lyrics are also fiercely critical of the traditional Hindu caste system. "The way that the caste system works is as a punishment-and-reward system," says Ahasan. "Lalon is critiquing the way that these categories operate to maintain hierarchy and power." In his songs, Lalon asserts that the caste system makes no sense to him and that he is therefore dropping out, rejecting caste and hierarchy altogether in favor of a spiritual approach that recognizes our shared divinity.

But "there's more to spirituality than smoking pot," Mac points out. (And Openshaw notes that "some Bauls are strongly against its use.") "Having said that," Mac adds, "it is a sacramental plant." He maintains that "ganja" is a derogatory term. As a result, the Bauls call marijuana *siddhi*, which, according to Mac, means "the attainment of a super-consciousness." At the Lalon festival in March, there are plenty of seekers, some more earnest than others. A variety of smoking styles can be seen as well, from hawkers selling eight-cent joints to the variously sized pipes being passed around.

"The *siddhi* rite is very intense," Mac explains. "The lighting of a pipe should be through a sacred flame, not through a match." Thus, regular joints are avoided by Bauls. "It's more like sipping champagne than drinking beer and going for a brawl. It's really sacred stuff."

There is a specific ritual that takes place among the Bauls at the Lalon fest in March, who alternate between singing, making pipes, smoking and heavy bouts of discussion. Here in Bengal, smoking is usually done in small clay pipes—miniature versions of the chillum found in much of northern India. The *siddhi* is wrapped in a dried *paan* leaf (which itself has a mild narcotic effect) and massaged in the palm of the hand, which produces a better smoke. The ball is then sliced on a tiny chopping board. The type of wood used for the chopping board is important, since different varieties have different qualities; guava wood is considered one of the best.

The chopped leaf is then loaded into the larger end of the cylindrical pipe. Next, a ball of coconut husk is rolled and lit with a candle flame. Once the husk is nicely in embers, it's placed on top of the smoking mixture, creating a much more effective fire than a flame from a lighter or match. A piece of cloth encases the pipe's smaller end as a filter, and the pipe is then held aloft and smoked by the circle of celebrants.

"It raises you to a state where you are able to connect to a spirit—which could be God—that helps you understand the texts, the verses, and the allegorical metaphors which are dominant in the philosophy and the songs," Mac says. "Lots of things are emphasized—you are not to lose your mind." Sharing is important here, and hogging the pipe is a big no-no. The experience should be peaceful and free of fear: "The worst thing is apprehension." The entire process of making the pipe, along with the gathering and sharing, is a celebration unto itself.

On this, the eastern end of the Himalayas, cannabis is usually consumed in leaf form—unlike the western end of the great mountain range, where hashish predominates. Bangladeshi weed is not as strong as the hybrid buds of the Western Hemisphere. However, these time-honored leaves can still pack a punch, particularly when lungs are generously and repeatedly filled via the clay pipe. Cannabis smoking has been ubiquitous in this part of the world for longer than anyone can imagine. However, only as recently as 1988, it was made illegal in Bangladesh. Many people here are convinced that some form of conspiracy was involved, with the main suspects being either the tobacco lobby or powerful politicians with connections to the pan-Asian heroin trade.

A woman lights a ball of coconut husk as she prepares a pipe for smoking. The coconut husk is part of the traditional ritual and produces a much better flame with which to light the pipe.

The Bauls call marijuana *siddhi*, which, according to Mac, means "the attainment of a super-consciousness."

Bangladesh and the larger Bengal region have been a divided land for centuries. Successive invasions and various dynasties have brought new religions to the land, as well as attempts at controlling those who live here. But the mystic tradition of tolerance and spirituality has challenged most of these attempts at control, most notably the Fakir-Sannyasi Rebellion, when itinerant mystics fought against the British, who had taken over the region. The first revolt occurred in 1771, after the British executed 150 *sannyasis*, leading to widespread revolts in what is now northern Bangladesh.

It was precisely at this time that Lalon Shah was growing up. And it is in this context that the spirit of Bengali heterodoxy lives on within the Bauls. They were among the first in the region to challenge colonial rule, and they continue to espouse an age-old enlightened tolerance, defying power, orthodoxy and tyranny in the name of a more worthwhile existence—one based on poetry, music, spirituality and pot.

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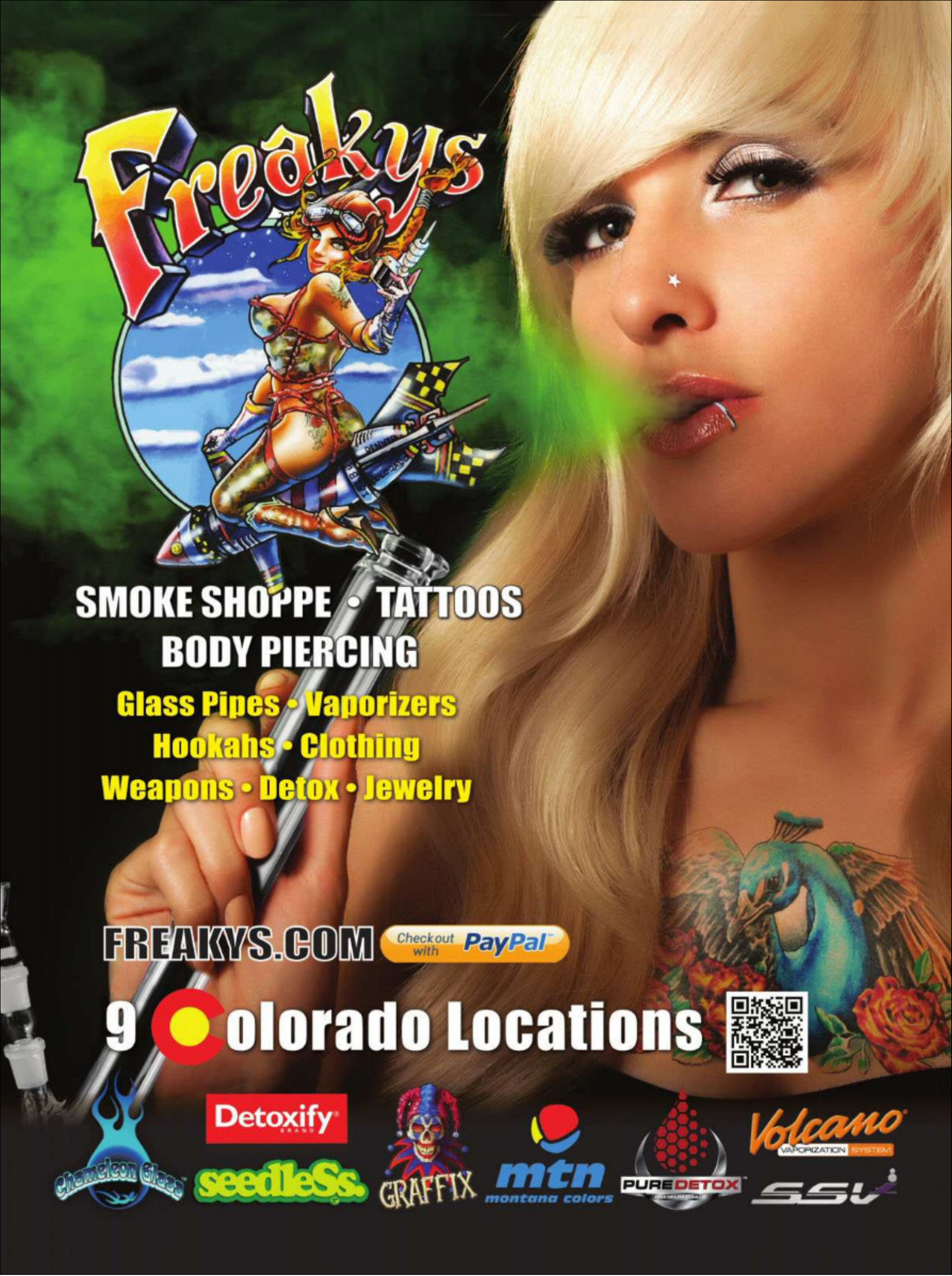
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Smooth Operators

Meet the highly committed female ganja-preneurs behind America's steadily growing cannabis-infused body-care industry. *By Elise McDonough*

Cannabis-infused body care from lotions to medicated toothpicks.

Eighteen years ago, Ah Warner was a young mother searching for an all-natural body-care product to treat her baby daughter's diaper rash. After discovering the moisturizing properties of fertile hempseed oil, she joined the movement to legalize industrial hemp-growing in the United States and even developed her own line of hemp-based lotions. Then, after medical marijuana legalization passed in her home state of Washington in 1998, she created a whole new line by adding pure cannabis to her topical formulas, offering even greater healing benefits.

Working out of her garage, Ah concocted various potions and has since branded, bottled and sold thousands of units with only the help of her family and friends. Now, as the CEO of Cannabis Basics, she sells handcrafted, sinsemilla-infused lotions, balms and salves at more than 75 access points in Washington State.

Sitting at the kitchen island in her spacious Seattle home, Ah prepares a few appetizers as we discuss her history as a cannabusiness woman.

"We're really pioneering a brand-new industry," she says while plucking a rice-paper wrapper from hot water, deftly handling the slippery sheet and filling it with tofu, fresh veggies and noodles before twisting up a spring roll. "This is completely different than the hemp business. I have people telling me, 'I'm walking today because of your pain cream.'"

With the advent of fully state-legal marijuana sales in Washington rapidly approaching, Cannabis Basics is poised to make it big in this new, expanding market, and Ah is "confident in my plan of attack" to get around the constricting nature of cannabis regulation as practiced by the State Liquor Control Board, which currently treats topicals like any other cannabis-infused product, even though these items are non-psychoactive. "I don't really want to play in that world," Ah says, explaining how her business could be hit with a 48 percent so-called sin tax. "There's no sin here; these products will not intoxicate you."

Ah Warner of Cannabis Basics

Ah must also overcome the cautious nature of investors: "They still don't want to touch my company, because we handle the female plant." So, aiming high, this enterprising ganja girl is working to make her cannabis creams available anywhere health-conscious consumers shop, including lobbying her elected representatives to amend the current law. One day, she'd like to see her products in Whole Foods.

Since the topicals contain less than 0.3 percent THC, Ah is emboldened to get her products into mainstream stores, sidestepping the 1-502 retail market entirely. "There's no reason why we shouldn't go mainstream," she says, explaining that products need to contain more than 0.3 percent THC to be stocked in the new state-legal cannabis retail stores. "We want to be regulated like an herbal supplement, not like medicine."

Idealistic but practical, Ah wants to help as many patients as possible and further the movement toward legalized cannabis in her state, but she also wants to put her kids through college before retiring to Central America. "We have to be capitalists to survive—but don't be greedy with this plant," she warns. "It is a gift."

LOCHFOOT, MCDONOUGH

Transdermal THC

Cannabis-infused lotions work because of the body's own endogenous cannabinoid system, which forms the biological basis for marijuana's healing magic. When you apply an infused lotion or salve to help relieve neuropathic pain, itchiness and other ailments, the cannabinoids in the topical bind to CB2 receptors in your skin, which absorb them in a way that helps cells regenerate, allowing wounds to heal faster and easing painful chronic conditions like eczema and psoriasis. Cannabis-infused topicals cover a "pretty wide myriad of conditions," Ah says. "People want natural solutions for their aches and pains, and we've got it for them."

Depending on the carrier oil used in formulating the body-care product, the cannabinoids penetrate deeply enough into the skin to relieve muscle pain and arthritis inflammation, but not so deep that THC enters the bloodstream or central nervous system. For this reason, it's pretty tough to get seriously high off a lotion.

Megan Schwarting, the smiley, outgoing proprietor of Kush Creams in Gig Harbor, uses emu oil, which she sources from large flightless birds raised on a nearby ranch in the Deep Creek Valley. Emu oil is said to penetrate into the epidermal layer, delivering the medicine deeply for added benefit without clogging pores. "It's also a hair-growth stimulant," Megan says. "We use it in a special shampoo that helps patients avoid hair loss during chemotherapy."

Megan and Ben Schwarting, Kush Creams couple.

When you apply an infused lotion or salve, the cannabinoids in the topical bind to CB2 receptors in your skin.

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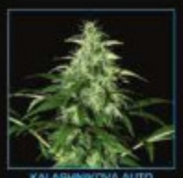
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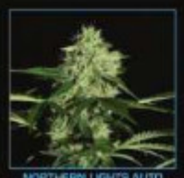
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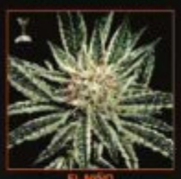
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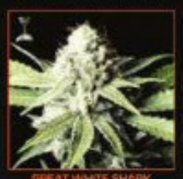
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Hybrids

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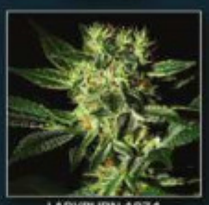
LADYBURN 1974

LEMON SKUNK

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THE CHURCH

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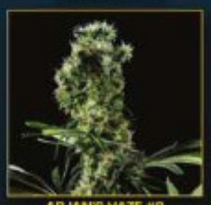
mostly Sativa

ARJAN'S HAZE #1


ARJAN'S HAZE #2

ARJAN'S HAZE #3

ARJAN'S STRAWBERRY HAZE

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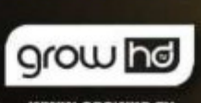
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Perhaps the most popular topical product in Washington, Schwarting's Kush Creams can be found in over 200 collectives. The lotions are infused with signature strains and carry the telltale aroma of Chocolope, Hindu Kush and Permafrost.

"We saw a need in the market for a professional product," Megan explains, "and there's less risk in this business" than selling raw cannabis.

Like Cannabis Basics, Kush Creams is a family affair, with Megan's husband Ben cultivating the ganja used in their body-care products. Starting with a booth at several different marijuana farmers' markets in the area, the Schwartings grew their operation quickly, using techniques honed by more traditional businesses like Mary Kay.

"I have a huge following from Zumba classes," Megan laughs. "The women come from everywhere. Patients request Kush Creams by name." The sweetly scented lotions also captured a Best Product award at the Seattle Cannabis Cup in 2013. Meanwhile, the Schwartings remain committed to educating the community. "For every 10 ounces we sell, we give back four ounces in the form of free samples," Megan says. "People really need to use it; it's changing their lives."

Empower Oil transformed the lives of Okel's clients and increased their general well-being.

Empower Oil is available in Oregon dispensaries.

Building Bridges

With so many possible applications for non-psychoactive cannabis-infused topicals, the market segment's broad appeal has helped legitimize marijuana as medicine even among demographic groups traditionally resistant to using pot. Schwarting explains that at the beginning of every school year, she hands out Kush Creams gift baskets to her children's teachers, principal and school-bus drivers.

"I believe in being transparent about what we're doing," she says. "I love being the product that bridges that gap."

Trista Okel, the brain behind Portland's Empower Oil, also believes in building bridges. Using a roll-on applicator, Empower Oil blends cannabis with other essential oils for maximum

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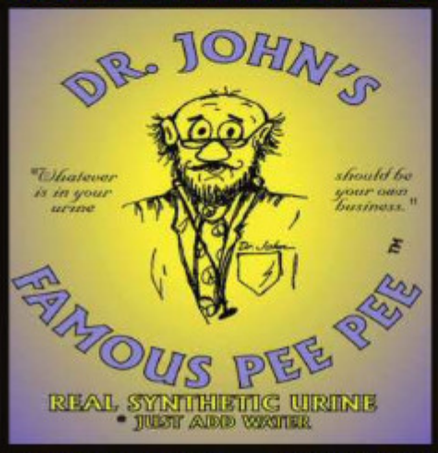

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medicinal benefits. Starting in May 2013, Trista began selling her product in several Oregon dispensaries and recommends it for "everything from arthritis to blisters." She too has seen her Empower Oil transform the lives of her clients and increase their general well-being—including a woman with fibromyalgia and neuropathy. After rubbing the oil on her feet, Trista says, the woman cried with happiness at the relief it brought. "Later, she got the first five continuous hours of sleep that she's had in a year."

Okel's Empower Oil is also winning hearts and minds by relieving the aches and pains felt by seniors in Oregon's traditionally conservative farming communities. "These people are cattle ranchers; they're all Republicans, and some of them are very religious .... Years ago, they didn't want anything to do with it, and now they're calling me and referring to cannabis as medicine." Trista even has a 77-year-old woman working as a local distributor.

Moms for Marijuana

The ability to start a home-based canna-business has empowered many women to enter the traditionally male-dominated world of retail marijuana, allowing them to work for a cause they believe in while still being deeply involved with their families. "I'm able to be flexible and volunteer at my daughter's school," explains Melanie Ladage, who started Tree Lotions in 2012 after years of working for dispensaries in the San Francisco Bay Area. Originally, she made kief-infused creams for her own tendonitis and sensitive skin, then went into business as a way of letting people know that marijuana has "so many more uses. I want to educate people that there's more to cannabis than just smoking it or making dabs."

Trista Okel of Empower Oil

Topicals help legitimize marijuana as medicine even among demographic groups traditionally resistant to using pot.

Using kief to create a base glycerin tincture, Melanie blends the medicine with essential oils to create distinct scents. Like Ah, she also uses hempseed oil as a moisturizing ingredient and recommends her lotions for rosacea, stretch marks, sports injuries, and the usual aches and pains. Using glycerin helps replace the elasticity that skin loses as people grow older; Melanie calls it "a facelift in a bottle."

As the public increasingly accepts medical marijuana, the market for cannabis-infused body-care products is only going to grow, since this versatile plant makes everyone feel beautiful, inside and out.

View our top 10 topicals and a recipe to make your own at *hightimes.com/topicals.*

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ICE CUBE

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

ON THE EVE OF THE HIGH TIMES CANNABIS CUP IN DENVER, SUPERSTAR RAPPER ICE CUBE TOOK THE STAGE, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SON O'SHEA JACKSON II, AND WORKED THE CROWD INTO A FRENZY. ICE CUBE IS MORE THAN A PERFORMER—HE'S AN UNRELENTING, CHARISMATIC FORCE, A FIRE-AND BRIMSTONE-PRESENCE. HE'S ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF NWA, THE HARD-EDGED HIP-HOP GROUP OF THE '80S AND '90S THAT VOICED THE PLIGHT OF URBAN BLACKS WHO WERE UNDER CONSTANT ASSAULT BY POLICE.

HE'S STILL AS HARDCORE AS EVER, BUT HE'S BECOMING A HOUSEHOLD NAME, TOO. HOLLYWOOD LOVES THE DUDE. HE SCORED IN MOVIES LIKE *BOYZ N THE HOOD* AND *BARBERSHOP*, BUT OVER THE PAST DECADE, HE'S APPEARED IN FAMILY FILMS AND ACTION COMEDIES. ICE CUBE CONTINUES TO BRANCH OUT AND TEST THE CREATIVE WATERS—AND WEED IS ALWAYS BY HIS SIDE.

You were outstanding at our Friday night concert.

Hey, thanks.

What did your kids think about you headlining at the Cup?

They loved it! It was dope, because it really still shows that I'm relevant when it comes to hip-hop, that I have history. I'm a true artist who supported the movement, the movies and records. So it was only right.

You were on the cover promoting the movie *Friday* back way back in our May 1995 issue. Can you remember the photo shoot?

Barely. Man, you gonna have to refresh my memory. We're talkin' 19 years ago. Had to be somewhere in LA. That was a long time ago. Lot of payments between now and then.

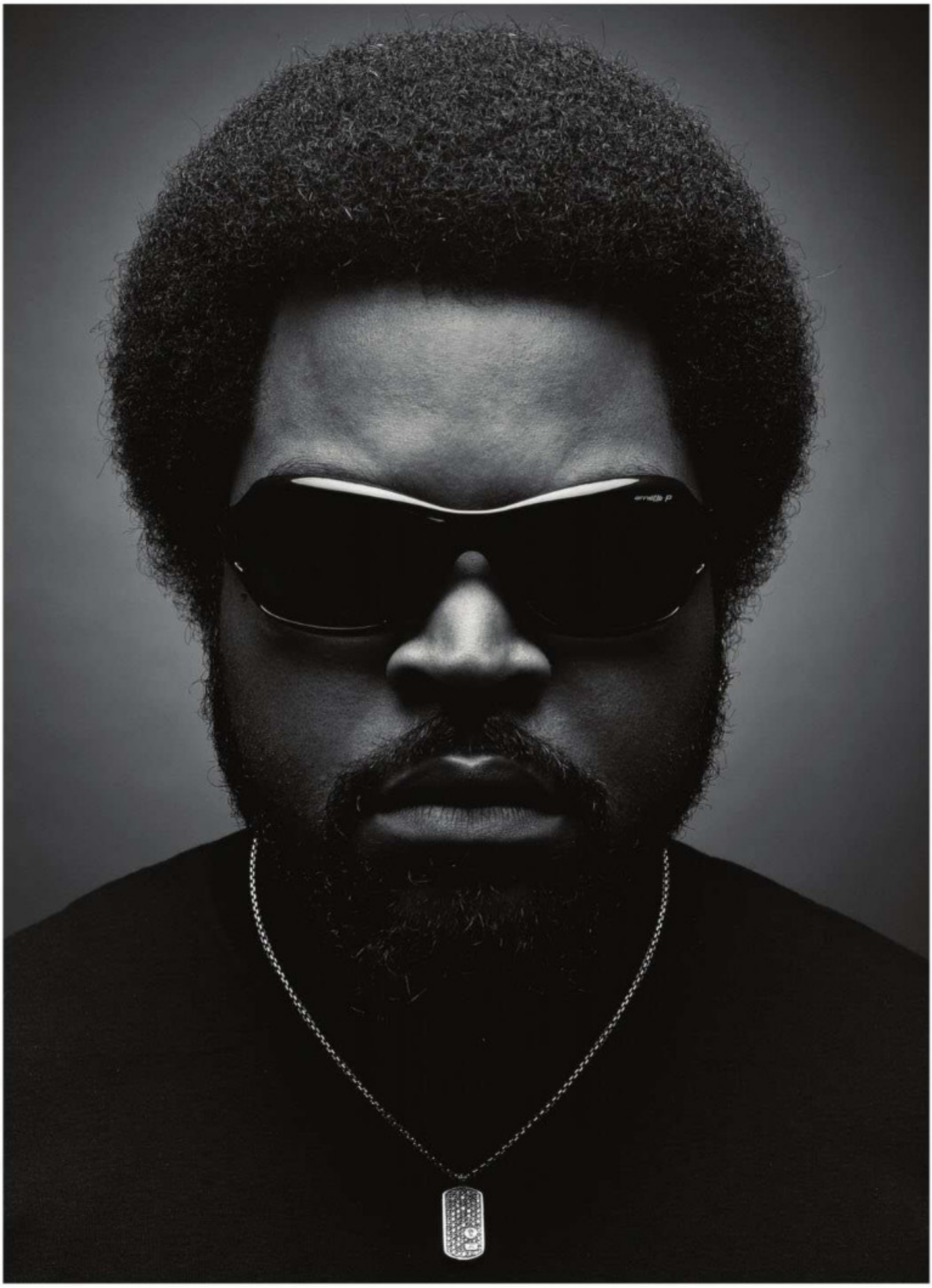
Have your feelings about cannabis deepened or matured?

You know, it's always to me been the thing, which is it should be up to grown people to make that decision for themselves whether they want to get down or not—and for whatever reason they wanna use it, if it help 'em, on the medical side or they just wanna get high. I never thought you could make a difference between allowin' alcohol to be legal and not allowing weed to be legal. To me, that was a crazy argument because alcohol does way more damage.

Back in the '90s, medical marijuana wasn't taken as seriously as it is now. How do you view marijuana now?

People thought it was a like—*wink-wink*—glaucoma. We didn't take it that serious. But we really studied and began to see how it's helping people—and the drastic measures that people are going through to get it just make themselves feel better is sick. Man, you had to think that this has to be legalized just to help people, you know? If y'all don't wanna legalize it for recreational use, you gotta let people do whatever they can to make themselves comfortable and healthy.

How have you talked to your kids about weed over the years?



Well, you know, it's really about being old enough to make that decision for yourself. Once my kids got to a certain age and I knew they knew the smell. I just knew I had to be real with them about it, that it's a personal decision that you have to make.

What's your impression of Colorado?

In a lot of ways it's a new frontier. I don't know really what to think about it because it's so new and it's extremely cool. I know that! That being said, I'm pretty sure that's how people felt when Vegas first opened. It's like, hey, you know a place where you can kind of go be yourself. And Colorado's a place where, obviously, if you're down with that, you can go be yourself and it's cool.

Colorado's got a population of 6 million; California's got a population of 36 million. What's held California back from legalizing for adult, recreational use?

California is extremely big and it's a lot of different things. A lot of money here. The problem is a lot of Republicans pretend to be Democrats and a lot of Democrats wish they was Republicans. There's a lot of posing out here. We didn't get it done which I'm fine with—for now.

You'll always have people who are going to abuse the law; that will have more plants than they should, that make it bad for everybody else who's obeying the law. You know what I mean? But it's got momentum because pot wants to have a role of its own. It probably should happen first in a spot like Colorado just to see the nuts and bolts. I think people gotta grow up a little bit. We wanna make it legal; we have to be legal. If legalization is here, you gotta comply. If you're not, then it might as well be illegal again and the Feds are going to really stop shit. But economics will drive legalization, no doubt.

Known for his iconic scowl, Ice Cube says he's happier than ever.

We wanna make it legal; we have to be legal. If legalization is here, you gotta comply. If you're not, then it might as well be illegal again and the Feds are going to really stop shit.

You're renowned for your scowl, but we see you smile a lot more these days. Are you a happier person than you used to be?

[*Laughing*] I think I'm a lot happier now. You know it's like I'm on a personal trip. I got the things, you know? My piece of the pie, so to speak—the American dream. I've acquired that personally and, definitely, it's satisfying. When you really look at us as a whole—black people, black youth—everybody's not as fortunate as I feel. Some ways, I feel like I should be here more for the people that can't speak for themselves.

Are you surprised by how mainstream a celebrity you've become?

No, not at all. People always like people like me in America. A dude who's basically came up from the bottom, and don't take no shit from nobody. I think that's what America loves about Clint Eastwood or somebody like him. We don't want our heroes to be wimps. We want them to stand on their convictions. People love Muhammad Ali. Think back when he first started—how people hated him, but people loved him because, whether you believed in what he believed in, he was willing to pay the price for what he believed in. He got the utmost respect for that.

***Barbershop* was one of the great ensemble films of the last 20 years. Did you know how good it was while making it?**

What was cool about the movie was here was this world where you had a chance to be a fly on the wall and to see that black men and women don't all have the same opinion. We argue about the same shit that anybody argue about. You know, some people like Michael Jackson; some people hate Michael Jackson. But that's how black people feel, too. You know what I mean? Everything that's debated in America, the same debates go on in the barbershop. Some people are going to agree with the other guy even though Obama's running. And, you know, that opinion is never heard. You know what I'm saying? Those kind of things are never heard. So it was a cool way to show that we all don't have the same opinion. It was kind of like a slice of life, to show a world that people really weren't privy to. That's kind of what *Boyz n the Hood* did.

Rodney King, O.J. Simpson and Rosa Parks all received a very different appraisal from what people are used to. Were you surprised when Rev. Jesse Jackson took offense at the movie's content?

I wasn't surprised. I understood what he was upset about. But what he had to understand, too, is that these opinions are out there and they're just as valid as all the good stuff people think. I think it's going to be that way with every struggle. Even with my career, you'll probably have somebody say, "Oh, you didn't do shit. I was right there with ya. If it wasn't for

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Ice Cube scores big in *Barbershop.*

"I like it raunchy; I like when it goes over the top. I like when people go too far. Lets me know I'm still alive, and we not boxed in quite yet!"

me, you wouldn't be there." And I'm pretty sure there are people who marched with Dr. King that probably have the same opinions, you know?

What was cool about the Cedric the Entertainer character—the older barber—was that he was playin' one of those guys who marched, who was there, not just shooting off lip.

I'm pretty sure during Selma [civil rights march of 1965], there was somebody in that crowd sayin', "What the fuck we doin' back here? We doin' all this walkin'. This guy's gettin' all the glory. We gettin' hit with rocks, you know?

Let's talk about your music. Of any artist dead or alive, who would you want to record with?

Bob Marley. I listen to him a lot. Oh yeah.

Any tips for your son, O'Shea Junior, on the music business?

Fall in love with the music, not the money. You'll have fun with the music. If you follow the money, you'll have a hard time.

Is there still a need for gansta' rap?

Oh yeah. I think there's a need for people to tell the truth as they see it and feel it, and it's not always politically correct. The last thing you want is a bunch of politically correct rappers walking around here. That would be the end of it. I like it raunchy; I like when it goes over the top. I like when people go too far. Lets me know I'm still alive, and we not boxed in quite yet!

How do look back on how do you look back on NWA?

Oh, man, I'm proud of NWA, of the fact that we used our only weapon available to us, which was our music—to talk about the things that we were going through, the things that was going on around us, the neighborhoods we came from and what we felt was a police state. What [Chief of Police] Daryl Gates and the LAPD had turned our neighborhoods into. We used the only weapon, which was our voice and our music to combat this. And in a lot of ways it worked. Think about how the LAPD was looked at before "Fuck the Police." But after

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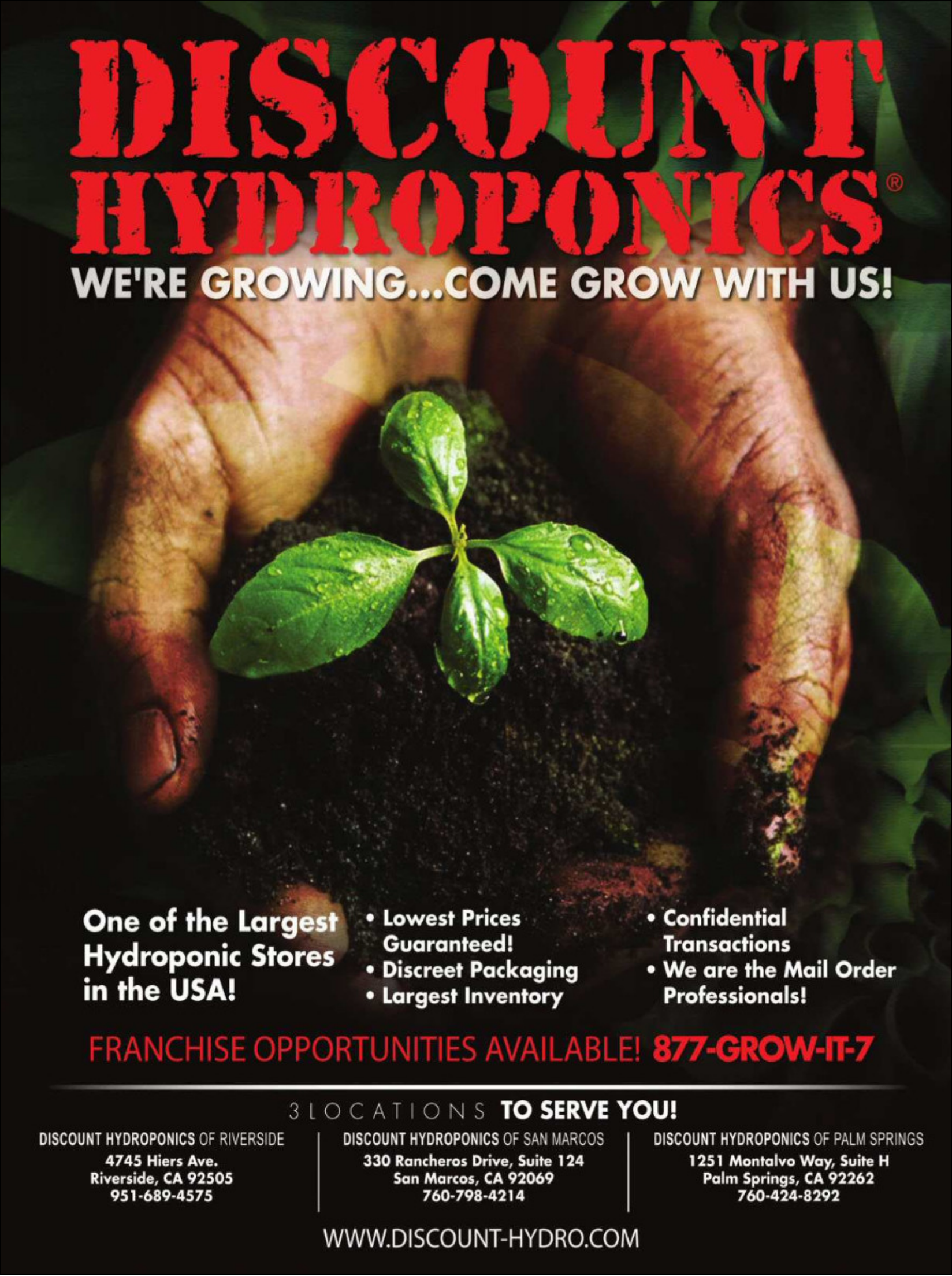

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Ice Cube isn't surprised by his mainstream celebrity.

"You don't see any racism for months and then, here comes a storm to remind you how far we have to go. But, you know, hopefully that subsides, and the sun will come back again."

"Fuck the Police" and after the Rodney King incident, now you have police going on trial who have to justify their actions and there's more and more of that. And we made it okay for artists to be themselves—not to have to sugar-coat the message, to put on a mask, to pretend to be a good guy just to sell music. NWA made it all right for you to be yourself. If you wanna be an asshole and sell records, you can be an asshole and sell records.

Racism often seems to recede, then it rears its ugly head. What's your take on racism in America?

It's always evolving, you know. It's like the weather—you have good days and you have bad days. Racism kinda has that same pattern. It can be clear. You don't see any racism for months and then, here comes a storm to remind you how far we have to go. But, you know, hopefully that subsides, and the sun will come back again. That's kind of what has been happening.

You know, I think music and sports and television have made us realize how much we are alike more than how much we're different. It's really about what people's circumstances are, what their environment is, what do they have to satisfy their daily needs.

Tell us about this NWA biopic that's coming up. Has that begun filming yet?

Not yet. We're still a putting together the script and the cast and we're in preproduction right now. Hopefully, we'll start filming early July. Nobody cast yet, but I'm hoping that my son will play me. But he has to handle the part, so we'll see how he does it.

Will the movie reflect what LA was like at that time?

Yes, definitely, we'll definitely bring it back.

As a Muslim, what do you think is the biggest misconception about Islam?

That we all agree with the same thing; that we, that we think like Muslims in other lands. It's not true. It's like thinking that all Christians think the same and have the same customs.

How religious are you?

You know, religion to me is extremely flawed. I'm not into traditions or rituals. I think you need to have a one-on-one relationship with your Creator in whatever capacity that is. I'm not a go-to-church, or a go-to-the-mosque every time you look around-kind of person. It's like I have my one-on-ones with God. Me and him powwow—and that's it.

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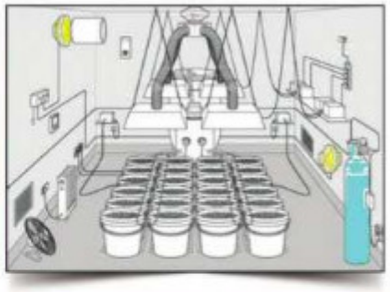

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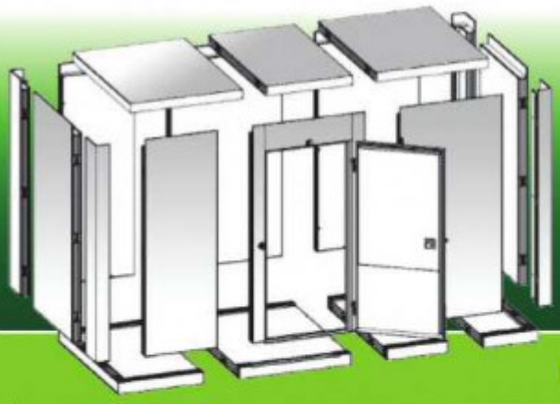

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Cultivation Clinic

Explaining the importance of pH. *By Nico Escondido*

Correct pH levels ensure proper nutrient absorption at the root level, providing for lush green uniform gardens.

NICO ESCONDIDO

The Power of Hydrogen

When discussing pH and its importance in growing healthy plants, it's useful to define exactly what pH is. And while there's some debate over the literal translation of the abbreviation—some refer to it as "possible" or "potential" hydrogen (H), while others insist that it comes from the German *Potenz* or the French *puissance* ("power") of hydrogen—one thing is certain: It's all about the hydrogen. But why is hydrogen so important?

For starters, hydrogen is the very first chemical element that appears on the periodic table; it has an atomic number of 1, meaning that it has only one proton in its nucleus. This is important, because it allows hydrogen to take on two forms: an *anion*, or a negatively charged atom (also known as a *hydride*), and a *cation*, or a positively charged atom. These two possible ion forms make hydrogen particularly instrumental in acid/base reactions, which are key for nutrient uptake by a plant's root system.

When we feed our gardens with a nutrient solution, there are specialized protein and enzyme molecules in the plants' roots that are structured to catalyze chemical reactions using either the positive or negative charges of hydrogen molecules. These charges match up with those of other minerals being fed to the plants in a phenomenon known *cation-exchange capacity*, or CEC. It is this "matchup" of positive and negative charges on a molecular level that allows roots to absorb nutrients and draw them up into the plants above.

Taking pH measurements of your medium, nutrient solution and waste runoff are all very important to ensuring the proper nutrition for your plants. The acidity or basicity of these parts of your grow are really just a measurement of their hydrogen ions. For ease of reference, these values are converted into a numbered scale that ranges from 0 to 14, with 7 being neutral (or pure water). Numbers over 7 and up to 14 are considered basic or alkaline, while numbers below 7 and down to 0 are considered acidic. Most plants prefer a slightly acidic pH balance—somewhere from 6.0 to 6.5—but depending on your strain type, grow medium and nutrient program, this range can vary.

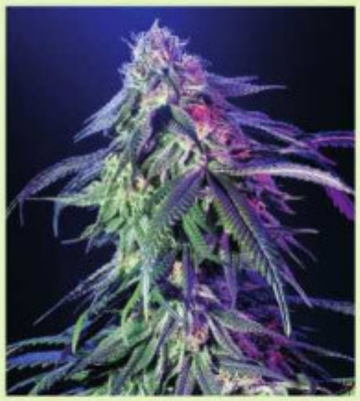
pH Levels & Your Garden

The growing medium or substrate is probably the single most important aspect to consider when thinking about the pH of your garden. For instance, pure peat moss is known to be more acidic than most mediums, and this should be taken into account. Most soilless mixtures will do well with a pH between 6 and 6.5, as they have medium CEC levels of around 50 to 60.

However, when you get into the more advanced hydroponic mediums such as rockwool or HEC (hardened expanded clay) pebbles, lower pH levels are recommended. These substrates are sterile and inert, with a CEC of 0. Recommended pH levels for these mediums range from 5.6 to 6.2. With these mediums, even pure water at a neutral level of 7 is too acidic and could benefit from an adjustment using a "pH down" additive.

A good rule of thumb no matter what type of medium you're using is never to go above 6.5 on your pH meter; otherwise, absorption of your nutrient solution will slow drastically, especially in water-culture systems. And in both hydro and soil systems, if you notice deficiencies in the lesser micronutrients such as iron, zinc and manganese, lowering your system's pH to between 5 and 5.5 for a week could help increase your CEC and thus your roots' uptake of these minerals.

Featured Strain of the Month: Grape Ape, 18.49% THC



This month's featured strain, Grape Ape, is an almost entirely pure *indica* variety (think Afghanica's purple pheno) whose ancestry can be traced to Northern California and whose name has become just as mixed as her lineage. Grape Ape, Grand Daddy Purple, Purple Urkel, the Purps—these are all closely related varieties (if not, at times, one and the same) that provide very similar effects. For starters, these strains have some of the best, most out-of-this-world flavor ever tasted. Call it psychosomatic or whatever you care to, but when you smoke the Ape, it tastes like grape! This quality is even more pronounced when grown organically. In fact, while Grape Ape generally tests between 15% and 17% THC, the highest lab result for this strain that came out of a *High Times* Cannabis Cup was 18.49% (Seattle, 2013), in a batch that was vegan-ically grown by Kushman Genetics/Buds & Roses.

On top of its exquisite flavor and appearance, Grape Ape does its job medicinally as well, providing a great body stone and euphoric effects. While most *indicas* are couch-planters, the Grape Ape has a long, enduring high that provides for good energy and conversation. A winner of numerous medical-related competitions, this strain has been useful in treating a wide range of symptoms, from anxiety to pain and appetite loss.

Thanks for reading, everyone, and remember, grow ... and help the world grow, too!

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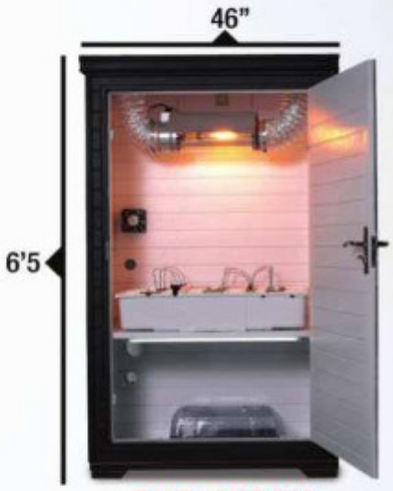

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Sweet Deep Grapefruit	$40
White Cheese (auto)	$42
White Siberian	$41
White Widow	$50
White Widow (auto)	$47

JOINT DOCTOR (6 sds)

Chronic Ryder (auto)	$50
Diesel Ryder (auto)	$50
Easy Ryder (auto)	$50
Lowryder #2 (auto)	$50
Orge (auto)	$50
Purple Ryder #2 (auto)	$50

SENSI (F)5sd/(R)10 sd

Afghani #1	$80
Big Bud	$140
Big Bud	$80
Black Domina	$150
Early Girl	$85
Early Skunk	$50
First Lady	$80
Hindu Kush	$55
Sensi Skunk	$45
Skunk #1	$70
Skunk #1	$35
Super Skunk	$50
Super Skunk	$50

DR.UNDERGROUND (4 sds)

U-Pink Kush	$55

GREENHOUSE (5 sds)

AMS	$35
Arjan's Strawberry Haze	$62
Auto-Bomb (auto)	$43
Big Bang	$30
Big Bang (auto)	$48
Bubba Kush	$52
Cheese	$42
ChemDog	$48
Darn Sour	$52
Diamond Girl	$38
El Nino	$55
Exodus Cheese	$35
Great White Shark	$55
Green-o-matic (auto)	$48
Greenhouse Thai	$38
Hawaiian Snow	$62
Himalayan Gold	$48
Jack Herer	$48
Kaia Kush	$52
Kalashnikova	$35
Kalashnikova (auto)	$55
Kings Kush	$48
K-Train	$52
Ladyburn 1974	$38
Lemon Skunk	$38
Moby Dick	$48
Neville's Haze	$62
NL#5 x Haze Mist	$48
Northern Lights (auto)	$50
Pure Kush	$42
Super Bud	$35
Super Critical	$48
Super Critical (auto)	$55
Super Lemon Haze	$65
Super Silver Haze	$62
Sweet Mango (auto)	$55
The Church	$35
The Doctor	$30
Trainwreck	$50
White Rhino	$55
White Widow	$55

TH SDS (F)5sd/(R)10 sd

A-Train	$60
A-Train	$102
Bubblegum	$130
Burmese Kush	$60
Burmese Kush	$110
Chocolate Chunk	$80
Cold Creek Kush	$120
Critical Hog	$80
Da Purps	$90
Darkstar	$120
Darkstar	$120
Heavy Duty Fruitty	$102
Kushage	$60
Kushage	$102
Lambo	$120
Mendocino Madness	$60
MK-Ultra	$72
MK-Ultra	$140
Mkage	$64
Sage	$60
Sage	$102
Sage N Sour	$64
Sage N Sour	$120
Skunkage	$40
SkunkXXX	$30
The Hog	$146
Wreckage	$90

MR. NICE (15sds)

Black Widow	$110
Critical Mass	$110
Critical Skunk	$85
Early Queen	$70
Early Skunk	$80
G13 Skunk	$85
Master Kush Skunk	$90
NL#5 x Skunk	$90

CBD CREW (5 sds)

CBD Critical Mass	$57
CBD Nordle	$57
CBD Shark	$57
CBD Skunk Haze	$57
CBD Sweet /Sour Widow	$57
CBD Yummy	$57

PARADISE (5 sds)

Acid	$70
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Auto Acid (auto)	$50
Auto Jack(auto)	$50
Auto Wappa (auto)	$50
Auto Whiteberry (auto)	$50
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Delahaze	$70
Dutch Dragon	$59
Ice Cream	$70
Jacky White	$70
Lucid Bolt	$70
Magic Bud	$44
Nebula	$70
Opium	$70
Original Cheese	$60
Original White Widow	$70
Pandora (auto)	$60
Sensi Star	$85
Spoetnik #1	$45
Sweet Purple	$44
Vertigo (auto)	$60
Wappa	$44
Whiteberry	$70

DNA GENETICS (6 sds)

60 Day Lemon (auto)	$83
60 Day Wonder (auto)	$83
Cannadential	$75
Cannalope Kush	$90
Cataract Kush	$90
Chocolate Fondue	$100
Chocolope	$90
Chocolope Kush	$100
Cole Train	$75
Confidential Cheese	$75
Exodus Kush	$100
Holy Grail Kush	$100
Kandy Kush	$90
Kosher Kush	$100
Kosher Tangie	$120
Kushberry	$75
LA Chocolat	$100
LA Confidential	$90
LA Woman	$90
Lemon OG Kush	$100
Lemon Skunk	$60
Martian Kush	$105
Martian Mean Green	$100
OG #18	$100
OG Kush	$100
OG LA Affie	$100
Purple OG#18	$100
Purple Wreck	$75
RKS	$60
Rocklock	$60
Sharksbreath	$60
Silver Bubble	$60
Silver Kush	$90
Skywalker Kush	$100
Sleestack	$90
Sour Cream	$60
Sour Diesel	$100
Sour Kush	$100
Sour Secret	$100
Sour Tangie	$120
Stacked Kush	$90
Strawberry Banana	$120
Tangie	$120

AUTO SEEDS (5 sds)

Auto #1	$44
Auto Pounder	$69
Berry Ryder	$58
Hijack	$69
MIG-29	$51
Pineapple Punch	$69
Polar Express	$51
Purple Cheese	$69
Trans Siberian	$58
Ultra Lemon Haze	$58

SWEET (5 sds)

Black Cream	$61
Cream Caramel	$56
Cream Caramel	$68
Dark Devil	$68
Green Poison	$63
Green Poison (F.V)	$65
Red Poison	$63

DUTCH PASSION (F)5sd/(R)10 sd

Auto Blueberry (3sds)	$50
Auto Frisian Dew (3sds)	$50
Auto Mazar (3sds)	$50
Auto Mazar (7sds)	$100
Atuo Xtreme (3sds)	$50
Auto Xtreme (7sds)	$100
Blueberry	$90
Blue Velvet	$80
Brainstorm	$60
Cali Orange	$75
Dark Delight	$75
Durban Poison	$90
Dutch Cheese	$80
Dutch Haze	$80
Euforia	$75
Freddys Best	$85
Frisian Dew	$65
Holland's Hope	$65
Jorge's Diamond #1	$75
La Lybella	$65
Master Kush	$70
Mazar	$85
Mekong High	$80
Night Queen	$80
Orange Bud	$65
Ortega Indica	$65
Outlaw	$50
Pamir Gold	$60
Passion #1	$65
Polar Light #2(3sds)	$45
Power Plant	$75
Purple #1	$65
Shaman	$50
Skunk #11	$45
Skywalker	$92
Snowbud	$50
Snow Storm #2 (3sds)	$45
Star Ryder (3sds)	$50
Strawberry Cough	$80
Taiga (3sds)	$42
The Ultimate	$90
Think Different (3sds)	$50
Think Different (7sds)	$100
Trance	$60
Tundra (3sds)	$42
Twilight	$60
Ultra Skunk	$80
White Widow	$95
White WidowxUltimate	$105

SERIOUS (F)6sd/(R)11 sd

AK-47	$120
AK-47	$120
Biddy Early	$55
Biddy Early	$55
Bubblegum	$110
Chronic	$110
Chronic	$110
Double Dutch	$105
Double Dutch	$105
Kali Mist	$120
Kali Mist	$120
Motivation	$110
Motivation	$110
Serious 6	$110
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White Russian	$110
White Russian (auto)	$75

SAMSARA (5 sds)

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HUMBOLDTSD.ORG (5 sds)

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WORLD OF SEEDS (7 sds)

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Afghan Kush Special	$85
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Afghan Kush x Skunk	$70
Afghan Kush x White Widow	$70
Afghan Kush x Yumbolt	$70
Amnesia	$72
Columbian Gold	$70
Ketama	$70
Madness	$70
Mazar Kush	$70
Mazar KushxGreat White Shark	$70
Mazar KushxWhite Rhino	$70
Northern Lights x Big Bud	$84
Northern Light x Big Bud (a)	$80
Northern Lights x Skunk	$70
Pakistan Ryder (auto)	$80
Pakistan Valley	$70
Skunk 47	$70
Space	$70
Star 47	$70
Strawberry Blue	$70
Sugar Mango Ryder (auto)	$80
Sweet Coffee Ryder (auto)	$80
Yumbolt	$70
Wild Thailand	$70

RARE DANKNESS (10 sds)

4 Corners	$75
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CommerceCity Kush	$107
DayDream Haze	$107
Ghost Train Haze #1	$107
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Night Terror OG	$107
Rug Burn OG	$107
Scotts OG	$107
Tangerine Kush	$107
The OX	$107
Vale'Vale'	$107
Walker Kush	$107

TGA SUBCOOL (5 sds)

3rd Dimension	$46
9LB Hammer	$na
Ace of Spades	$46
Agent Orange	$46
Apollo 13	$46
Cheese Quake	$46
Chernobyl	$46
Conspiracy Kush	$56
Dairy Queen	$46
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Galactic Jack	$56
Jack's Cleaner II	$46
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Space Bomb	$46
Space Dawg	$46
Space Jill	$46
The Flav	$46
The Void	$46
Timewreck	$46
Vertex	$46

BOMB (F)5sd/(R)10 sd

Atomic Bomb	$55
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Berry Bomb	$42
Big Bomb	$40
Big Bomb	$34
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Cherry Bomb	$44
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Granddaddy Purps	$105
Ken's Kush	$105
OG Kush	$105
Phantom Cookies	$105
Purple Dream	$na

CALI CONNECTION (F)6sd(R)10 sd

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OGiesel	$100
OGiesel	$100
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Original Sour Diesel	$100
Pre 98 Bubba	$100
Purple Chem	$100
Purple Crack	$120
Purple Diesel	$100
Tahoe OG	$100
Tahoe OG	$100

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SUBJECT: **Starting Off With Hydro?**
FROM: **SC**

I've got a couple of startup questions that I need some help with. If I wanted to start growing indoors (in tents) and grow hydroponically, which hydro setup should I choose (NFT, ebb-and-flow, DWC, etc.)? By the way, I'm going to have only about 5 feet of height and plan on running two or maybe three tents, if that helps. And my second question is: Which hydro medium do *you* most prefer?

Thanks again for the great articles, your *Free Weed* podcast and everything you do for the movement.

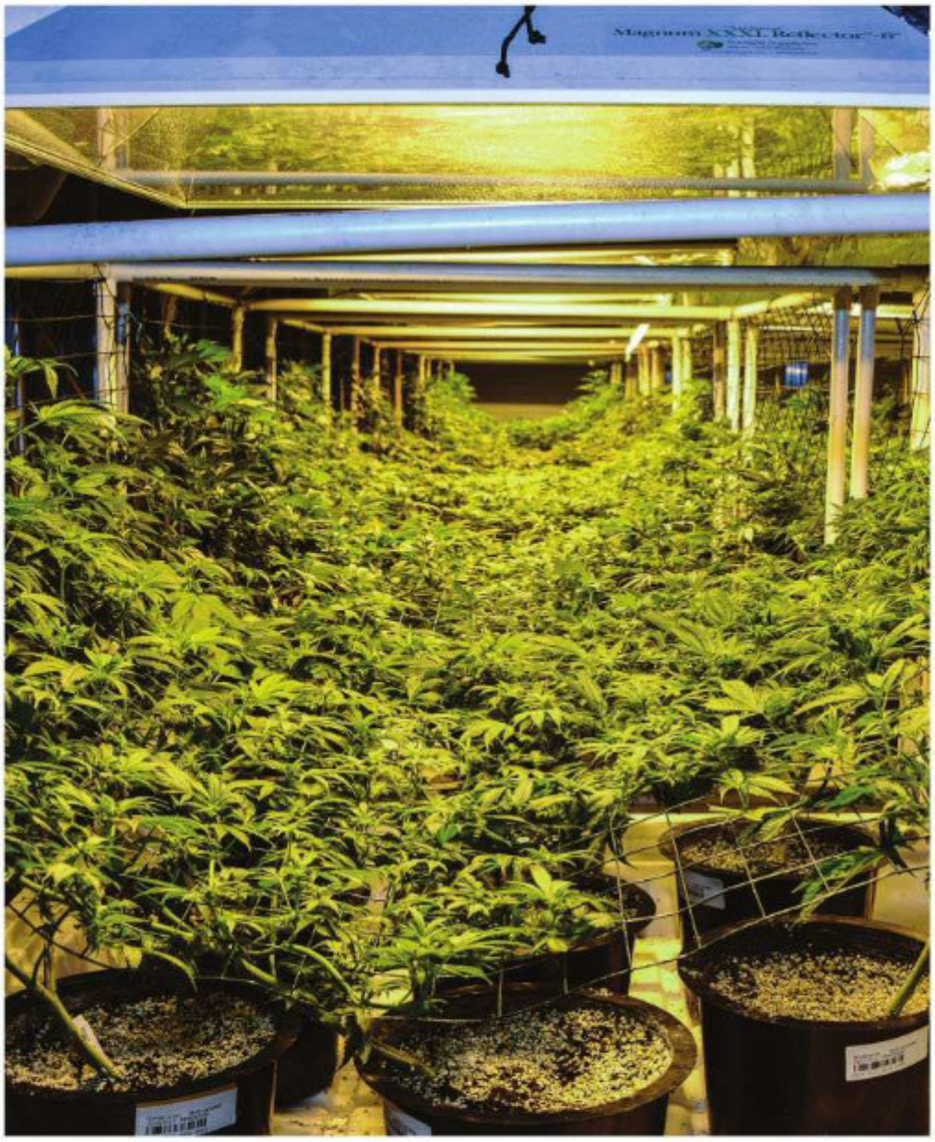
Dear SC,
Thanks for the kind words! I appreciate the support. If you're a first-time grower, my first impulse would be to try to convince you not to grow hydroponically. Usually, when people are just starting out, I recommend that they use a soil (or, technically, a soilless) mix in containers that they then hand-water. That's because those types of mediums are more forgiving than hydro, which must always be dialed in carefully.

If you insist on starting off with hydroponics, I'd suggest wetting your feet with an ebb-and-flow (sometimes called a flood-and-drain) system using rockwool as your medium. Rockwool provides plant roots with plenty of oxygen and holds a ton of water, so it's a bit easier to master than growing with grow rocks or coco coir, or by hanging roots in a deep-water culture (DWC) system.

When hydroponic drip systems are dialed in, plants exhibit explosive growth rates.

RY PRICHARD

Danko Tip: Change your clothing and shoes when entering your growroom to avoid bringing in pests.



Even plants grown in organic mediums with organic nutrients need to be flushed as they near harvest.

SUBJECT: **Foliar Foul**

FROM: **Jake the Muss**

I've read that you recommend foliar feeding for plants in their vegetative stage. Might it be possible to overfeed or "burn" your plants if you're foliar-feeding them as well as giving them nutrients during watering? It would seem that you're feeding them twice over this way. Or should I choose between foliar feeding and watering them with nutrients, or alternate between the two? Or would another option be using half the normal strength for the nutes and then feed using both methods?

Dear Jake,
I do recommend foliar feeding, but typically at about one-quarter the strength that you're feeding the roots directly (which in turn should be about one-half the recommended strength on the bottle or package). That would be my advice unless your plants are showing any signs of nutrient deficiency, in which case you need to boost the nute levels in your feeding solution. Foliar feeding is supplemental and should never take the place of giving your roots a good soak in a nutrient-rich solution.

In addition to lightly feeding your plants, foliar feeding also benefits them by washing off dust particles and keeping the stomata on the leaf surfaces open in order to take in more light and liquid. This results in healthier leaves and increased growth rates.

When foliar feeding, the well-diluted nutrient solution should be misted onto the tops and bottoms of leaves, with some of it inevitably dripping down into the pots and feeding the roots as well. Also, you can always avoid overfeeding by using less fertilizer for both the foliar feed and the watering. If you're still worried about overfeeding, simply use plain water as the foliar spray.

SUBJECT: **Flush Organics?**

FROM: **Kushyman**

I have a question about flushing. I realize that when you're feeding your plants synthetically made nutrients, you must flush out the salts that build up. However, when growing organically, I'm really struggling to understand the point of flushing the soil. After all, when you're growing organically, what would you be trying to flush—microbes? I am basically running a fairly hot soil and feeding with compost tea. Thanks for your input. I really enjoy your podcast—keep it up!

Dear Kushyman,
Thanks for your support, and I'll share your kind words with my producer and co-host, Mike Hughes.

You should always flush your plants, whether you're growing with synthetic nutrients or organic ones. Both methods feed them with chemical elements, some of which need to be removed via the flushing process so that your buds will burn properly (i.e., down to a clean, white ash). Organic nutrients derive these chemical elements from natural sources, while synthetic nutrients are formulated in a lab from inert chemicals. But both build up, in your medium and your plants, over the course of the grow cycle, and the flushing process removes them.

For the last week or two of the flowering stage, use plain, pH-balanced water at three times the volume of your containers (for example, 15 gallons of water for a 5-gallon bucket) and pour it through your medium. After a few flushes, start testing the water that comes out of the container; you should see the total dissolved solids (TDS) in your solution, which are measured in ppm (parts per million), starting to go down. This is a good sign. Your fan leaves will also begin to fade in color, but don't be alarmed: This is another indication that the flushing has worked.

RY PRICHARD

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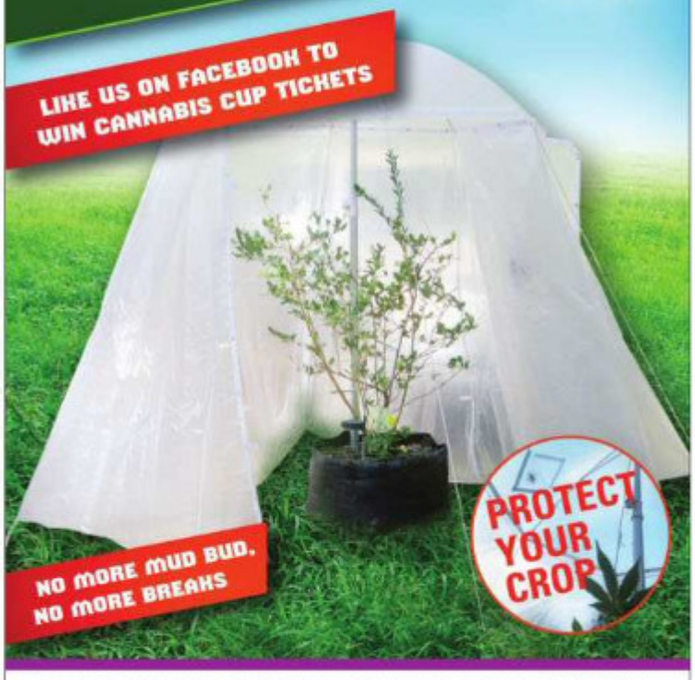

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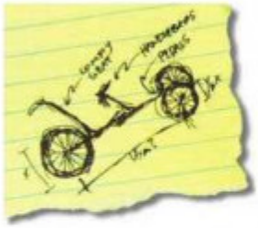

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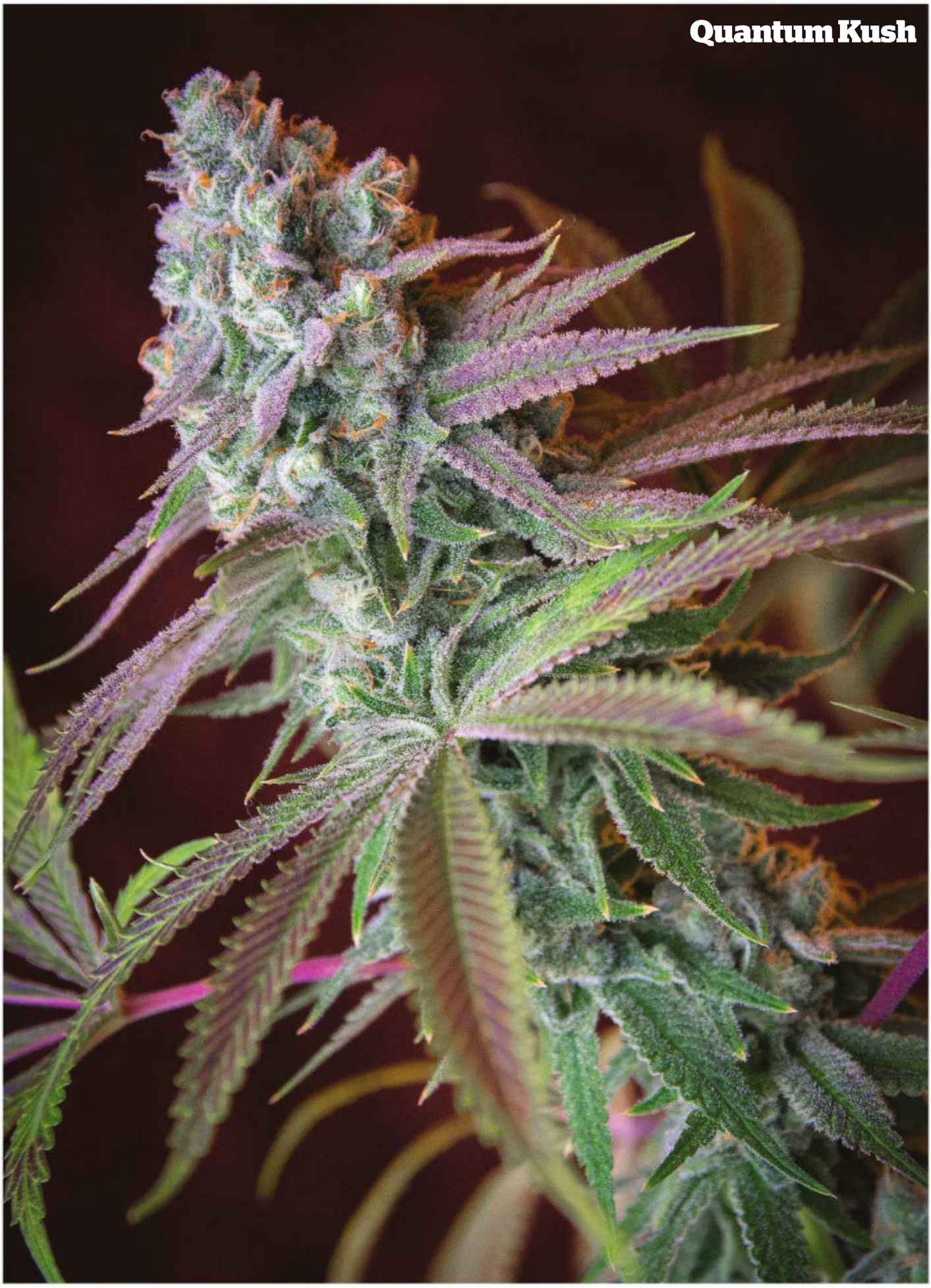

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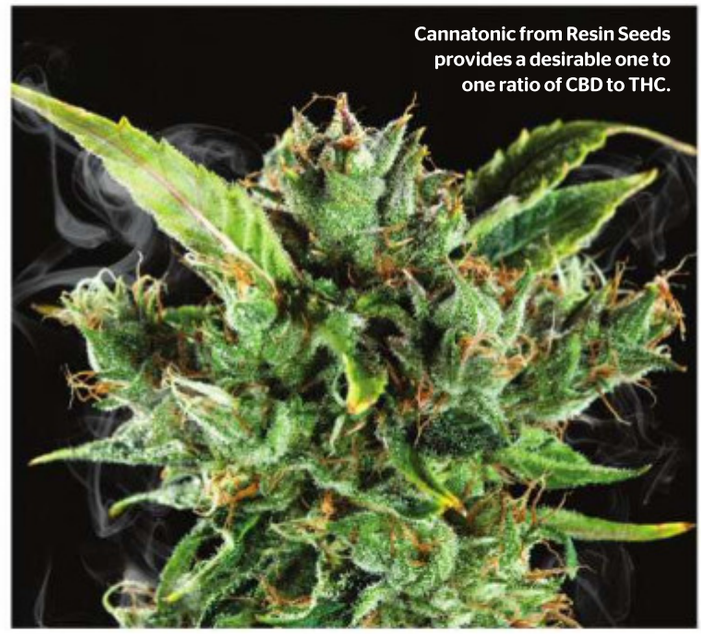
Danko Tip: Never interrupt the dark cycle with light during the flowering stage of plant growth.



Cannatonic from Resin Seeds provides a desirable one to one ratio of CBD to THC.

SUBJECT: **CBD Strains**

FROM: **Green Flash Farms**

Aloha! I grow outdoors in Hawaii and have been requested by my patient to grow a high-CBD strain like Cannatonic or something from the CBD Crew. My question is: Have any of these strains been stabilized enough for a backyard grower to work with them and be sure that the resulting plants will have a high CBD ratio? With no access to lab testing, can we as growers be certain that these strains are what their breeders or sellers claim, or is there a chance that some phenos will *not* be high in CBD? I don't want to give a patient medicine that isn't what it's supposed to be.

Dear GFF,

You can trust that any seeds you buy from the CBD Crew (*cbdcrew.org*) contain higher levels of cannabidiol (CBD), the cannabinoid credited with an astounding range of medical properties, including reducing seizures. As their name indicates, the CBD Crew are at the forefront of research into breeding CBD-rich marijuana varieties, and their strains are stable and grow true to form. And there are certainly other trustworthy and reputable breeding outfits that sell high-CBD strains as well.

Hopefully, you will soon be able to have your harvest lab-tested in Hawaii as the laws there change and the testing labs expand their operations. The most important thing to remember about cannabis as a medicine is that it's best to use a "whole-plant" approach. The benefits of CBD are greatly increased when used in conjunction with other cannabinoids, including THC. This "entourage effect" is the key to understanding how medical marijuana works.

Similarly, the key to utilizing CBD to its utmost effectiveness is to study the many possible ratios of CBD to THC. Different patients require different ratios to find relief from a variety of symptoms, and this is why "CBD-only" medicine and cookie-cutter legislation aren't good for the future of medical marijuana. And don't even get me started on the Chinese "hemp paste" being sold as medicine to desperate people in states without medical marijuana laws.

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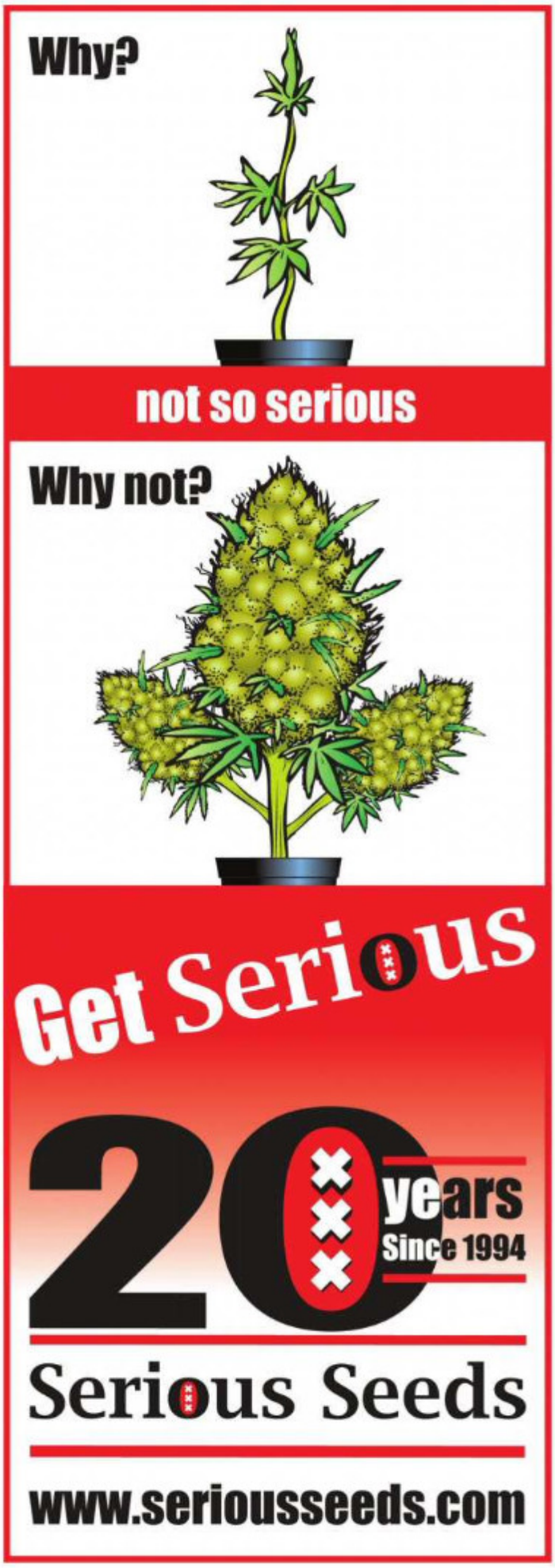
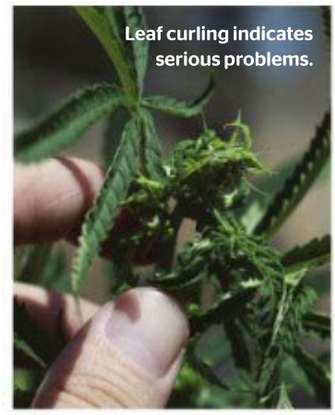


Danko Tip: Always test the pH and ppm of your nutrient solution before and after feeding it to your plants.

SUBJECT: **Curled Leaves**
FROM: **Barry Field**

I was just wondering if you can tell me why the leaves on my indoor pot plants are curling?


Leaf curling indicates serious problems.

Dear Barry,
There are several reasons why it might be happening, but the most probable is water stress—i.e., you are overwatering your plants. The other possibilities are overfertilization, high heat or a nutrient lockout caused by pH variation. I recommend that you check the nutrient, temperature and pH levels, and if all of them are within their proper parameters, then water stress is the likely culprit. Let your medium dry out between waterings, and the symptoms should go away.

One last thing I should mention is that there are also plant viruses that start with the leaves curling under, but I'd have to see a photo to correctly diagnose that malady with your plants.

SUBJECT: **Veg Time**
FROM: **Hi4daze**

I have a question that I haven't been able to answer definitively based on my small, personal, five-to-six-plant grows. I usually veg my plants for at least five to six weeks, but sometimes I let them go for as long as eight. So here's my question: What's the ideal length of time to veg if you're looking for maximum yields? For example, if four weeks of veg time yields 45 grams per plant, wouldn't eight weeks yield more? If so, what about 10 weeks? I've done some experiments with veg time in the past but have yet to draw any firm conclusions.

Dear Hi4daze,
There is no "ideal" length of time to keep plants in their vegetative stage. Every grower is different, so you have to decide for yourself how long you want to spend building the leaves and branches of your plants under 18 to 20 hours of light, before inducing them to flower using 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness.

It's true that the longer you keep your plants in the vegetative stage, the larger they'll get, which does mean bigger yields from plants that were vegetated longer. The main drawback to a longer vegetative stage is the obvious fact that it takes more time, lengthening your grow schedule and allowing more time for things to go wrong along the way. Also, vegging a plant for three months or longer is a waste of time, so think of it as something that brings diminishing returns when you overdo it.

My own rule of thumb is a week of veg time for every gallon of the growing medium (i.e., a plant grown in a 5-gallon bucket should get a five-week veg). Most people veg their plants anywhere from two weeks to two months, but there are "sea of green" (SOG) growers who hardly veg at all and large-plant specialists that go longer. The important thing is that the plants are healthy throughout this vital stage of growth. That way, they'll be ready and able to pack on the buds during the flowering stage.

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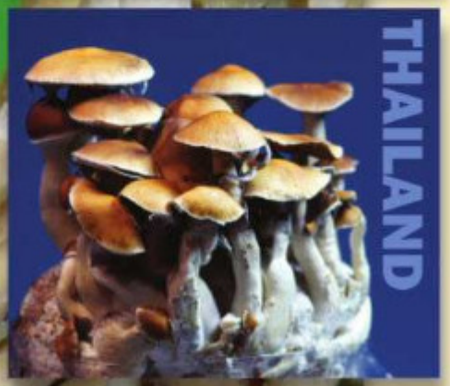

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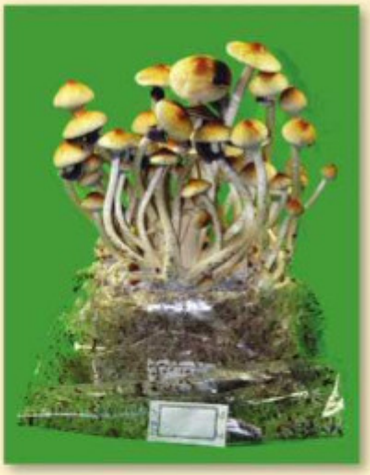

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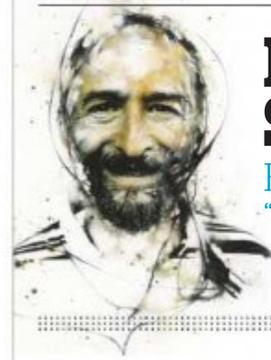

Factually Smoking

Hemp magic and so-called "pot problems."

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at *420research@gmail.com*.

Isn't there a story about a guy who said that hemp paper could raise the dead?

B. Leif N'Zombies

Hi B,
As the story goes, a prominent Chinese official named Cai Lun became tired of writing on bamboo back in 105 CE. He invented a process for making paper out of hemp, but it didn't find favor with the ruling dynasty. Ever the marketing genius, Cai Lun declared that the paper had magical properties and then feigned his own death, after which his wife urged mourners to burn the paper—with the result that, after several days, Cai Lun appeared to return to life. (He didn't pretend he was a zombie, though.) Burning paper offerings or "spirit money" at funerals—a longstanding Chinese tradition—supposedly became popular after that.

I'm having yet another "amotivational syndrome" argument. Can you help me out?

Phil Urday Witwork

Hi Phil,
Most of the folks who insist that cannabis causes "amotivational syndrome" fail to look at people who don't use the plant. One well-crafted study actually included some non-users and found that roughly 5 percent of *everybody* in the survey showed "amotivational" symptoms (*psycnet.apa.org/journals/adb/1/2/114/*). In truth, when it comes to work, we all need to ebb and flow or else we'll burn out.

Did Cai Lun resurrect himself with hemp?

What do research studies mean by "marijuana problems"?

King Doubter

Hi King,
"Cannabis problem" scales ask about anything that could be considered a screw-up related to marijuana use; these usually include missing school or work, memory quirks, and driving or operating machinery right after smoking. They also view spending multiple hours per day high as troublesome. Like anything else in life, there's a healthy balance in cannabis use, and I believe that anything we can do to keep the bad stuff to a minimum is a good idea.

Which came first, industrial hemp or medical marijuana?

Old N. Times

Hi Old,
Researchers have found hemp fibers dating back to 8000 BCE, so the answer is likely industrial hemp. Medical cannabis probably didn't start until sometime around 2700 BCE.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is a professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.

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Avoiding TerriBHO Experiences

Find out what material your extractor is using. *By Josh Shipman*

Be an informed concentrate consumer.

DAN SKYE

If you cruise Instagram, you'll see the exploding culture of "dabs." It appears that everybody and their grandma (#elderlywhodab) are smoking or blowing BHO these days. So how do you know if the amateur BHO you're smoking blows or glows? Here's an introductory list of attributes that you should look for or inquire about with your extract artist in order to avoid terriBHO experiences.

The biggest factor in the final taste and effect of a concentrate is the quality of the material being used for the extraction. Which part of the plant being used is significant, whether it's the shade leaves, the sugar leaves or the flowers, and so is the stage of trichome development or degradation.

Additionally, certain growing techniques can affect the quality of the end product, especially pest- and disease-control practices. So growers should be wary of how late they spray neem oil on their crops.

Buds are the most potent and terpene-filled part of the plant and have the potential to create the fullest taste, whereas shade leaves render the product less potent and more hashy-tasting. However, using the entire plant yields the best medical benefits, and extractors do perform whole-plant extracts, though these are typically not as pleasant to the taste as a pure flower extraction.

The freshness of the material also plays a huge role in preserving terpenes in the final product. The more that the plant matter dries and is subjected to heat, the quicker decarboxylation occurs, and the more essential oils and terpenes evaporate. Decarboxylation can be an important chemical process in producing edibles, because it activates the THC and CBD. When producing BHO for dabbing, the heat from vaporization will activate these chemicals, so using fresher material results in superior-tasting dabs. Some argue that fresh-frozen material produces the most floral-tasting oils (albeit at the cost of lower yields). But most commercial extractors prefer quickly cured bud around one week old for a balance of taste and yield.

You may not know everything about BHO yet, but knowing what material your extractor used—and why—will help you find a suitable, smokeable concentrate that has maximum flavor and effect.

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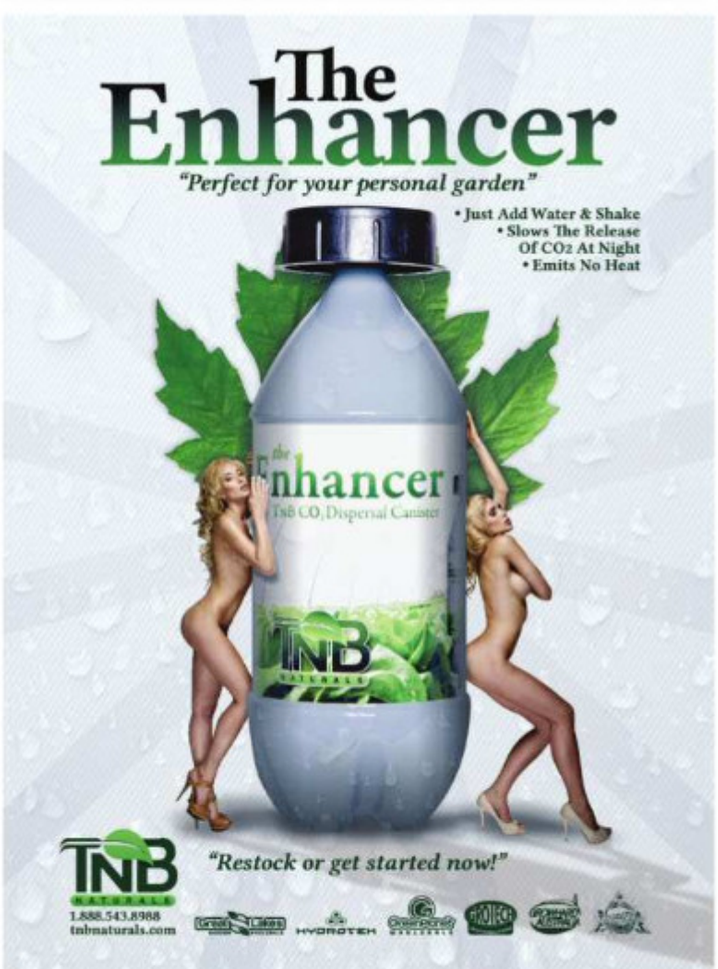
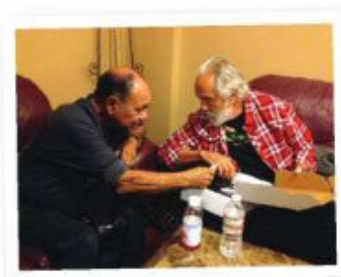


Still Smokin' in Denver

Cheech and Chong kick off the 4/20 festivities in Colorado.

With Ice Cube, Slightly Stoopid, Snoop Dogg and Wiz Kahlifa, I thought the entertainment for our Cannabis Cup weekend in Denver couldn't be better—that is, until I learned that Cheech and Chong were appearing at the Fillmore Auditorium that Thursday night.

I've met Tommy Chong a bunch of times, and met Cheech Marin a couple of times as well. What I'd never done, however, was see them perform together live. So I reached out to Chris Chiari from King Of Quality (who was promoting the show), who generously gifted me 10 tickets for the High Times staff.



Cheech and Chong peruse their honorary judge's kit backstage.

I arrived at the Fillmore around 8 p.m. with my wife on one arm and an honorary Cannabis Cup judges' kit under the other. But when security wouldn't let me in with it, I had to put my BBD to work. I tried calling and texting Chris, but got no response. Then, after waiting outside for around 10 minutes, I bumped into Uncle Stoner—a Cup regular and friend of Chiari's—and explained my situation.

"Forget the front door, Bobby," he told me. "Come around the side to the VIP entrance."

A separate VIP entrance? Now we're talking! I followed him down the block and, employing my best magickal misdirection skills, slid right past the club staff without them even noticing the kit. I also learned that not only did my tickets come with a private entrance, but entrance to a VIP balcony area as well. I grabbed a beer and made it to the balcony just as the "420 Comic" Jeffrey Peterson was ending his set. Also performing that night were '70s R&B group Sister Sledge, backed up by the Family Stone of Sly and the Family Stone—giving new meaning to their hit "We Are Family."

The Danktanstic Duo started off with some reefer repartee with Tommy's wife Shelby, then did a few songs and updated versions of some of their greatest hits—including the classic "Dave's Not Here" and front-seat smoking scene "Cruising" from *Up In Smoke*. Sure, we'd heard the jokes before, and maybe their delivery wasn't as tight as it once was, but when that crowd and I gave them a roaring ovation at the end, we weren't just clapping for the performance that night—we were clapping for every performance they'd ever given. For all of the jokes and routines and movies, for all of the entertainment and activism they've so brilliantly and boldly bestowed upon us over the past half a century.

After the show, Chiari escorted me backstage to greet the comic legends. I congratulated them, thanked them, and then made my presentation.

"On behalf of High Times, I'd like to present you with this honorary Cannabis Cup Judges' Kit," I said as I handed them the box. Inside were three samples from each of our Cup categories. When they opened it, their eyes lit up … in fact, Cheech—who was leaving town the next day—was so stoked about it that I watched him write out his home address and hand it to our associate publisher Rick Cusick, who promised to send him his share. Before saying goodnight, I was able to snag a few photos and a quick video message from the guys. To watch it, go to *hightimes.com/cheechandchong420*.

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Pot by the Numbers

If you don't think we're making progress, think again! Here's a quantitative look at how far we've come—and also how far we have left to go.

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit ***norml.org***.

There are 40 million cannabis consumers in the United States; six to eight million regularly purchase the herb.

There are over 150 NORML chapters in the United States and around the world.

NORML has more than 520,000 Facebook friends and 130,000 Twitter followers.

In the US, 22 states and the District of Columbia have passed either voter initiatives or legislation creating legal protections—and, in some states, retail access—for medical cannabis products.

16 states have decriminalized the possession of cannabis for adults over 18 years of age.

Two states have legalized cannabis production and retail sales for recreational use.

In 2008, there were zero state legalization bills introduced. So far in 2014, there have been 15. The total number of cannabis-law reform bills introduced in Congress in 2008: one. The total number of bills introduced so far this year: eight (including for legalization).

There are 1.2 million registered patients compliant with state medical cannabis laws in the United States. This registration data suggests that as many as 90 percent of these patients are males under 30 years of age claiming chronic pain as the qualifying medical condition.

There are 120,000 medical patients registered at the San Francisco Bay Area dispensary Harborside Health Center. There are 200 registered patients being served by the three legal dispensaries in Washington, DC.

There are four remaining federally registered medical cannabis patients in the United States. They were grandfathered into the Compassionate Investigational New Drug program and receive 300 pre-rolled joints a month, free of charge.

Our Cups runneth over!

In 2009, High Times held one Cannabis Cup event per year … in Europe. In 2014, there will be six—including five in the US.

Over $3 million in retail taxes was collected in the first 30 days of legal "pot shops" opening in Colorado this year.

In 2010, there were four registered marijuana lobbyists on Capitol Hill. Today, there are over 20 pro-marijuana lobbyists working for various organizations, trade associations and companies.

There are 2,800 cannabis-related businesses in the United States, with over 5,000 more applications pending in Washington and Colorado.

In 2009, there was one publicly traded cannabis-related company. In 2014, there are over 25.

In 2010, there were zero cannabis-centric private equity funds to invest in. In 2014, there are five.

In 2014, NORML will give over 2,000 media interviews about cannabis-related matters.

There have been 24 million pot arrests in America since cannabis was made illegal back in 1937 (90 percent for possession only). There were 750,000 arrests in 2012 alone.

An estimated 60,000 to 100,000 cannabis cultivators, traffickers, sellers and consumers are currently incarcerated in America on cannabis-related crimes—a number of them with life sentences.

There are over 600 lawyers involved with NORML, defending victims of prohibition laws, helping start legal cannabusinesses and litigating in court.

There's been a 94 percent drop in cannabis-related arrests in Colorado since legalization took effect in December 2012.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

By Erik Altieri, NORML communications director

Lone Star Legalization

Tristan Tucker rides the activist trail.

Following a stint in the US Navy, Tristan Tucker began advocating for cannabis legalization. He was drawn to the issue of marijuana-law reform once he realized how many of his own conditions—as well as those of his fellow service members—could be successfully treated with cannabis instead of harsh pharmaceutical drugs.

Tristan moved back to Texas from Virginia in August 2011. He formed a connection with Dallas—Fort Worth NORML executive director Shaun McAlister and soon began attending meetings of the University of North Texas NORML chapter. By spring of 2012, he'd taken over as chapter president.

During his tenure with UNT NORML, Tristan expanded the chapter's scope by creating a full board of officers, developing and branding merchandise, and conducting events on and off campus to promote much-needed change in the state's marijuana laws. Since that time, Tristan has become an effective fixture on the activist scene. His personal mission is addressing veterans' issues in Texas, especially when it comes to raising awareness of how medical marijuana can be used to treat war-related illnesses like PTSD.

Currently, Tristan serves as the deputy director of Dallas—Fort Worth NORML, helping to focus the public's attention on the upcoming—and critical—state legislative session in 2015.

Tristan believes that marijuana activists "can start making sense of American politics," he says. "We need you all to speak up, go vote, and get intelligent, honest people into office that will represent what the overwhelming majority of Americans want to see done."

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FLOWER OF THE MONTH

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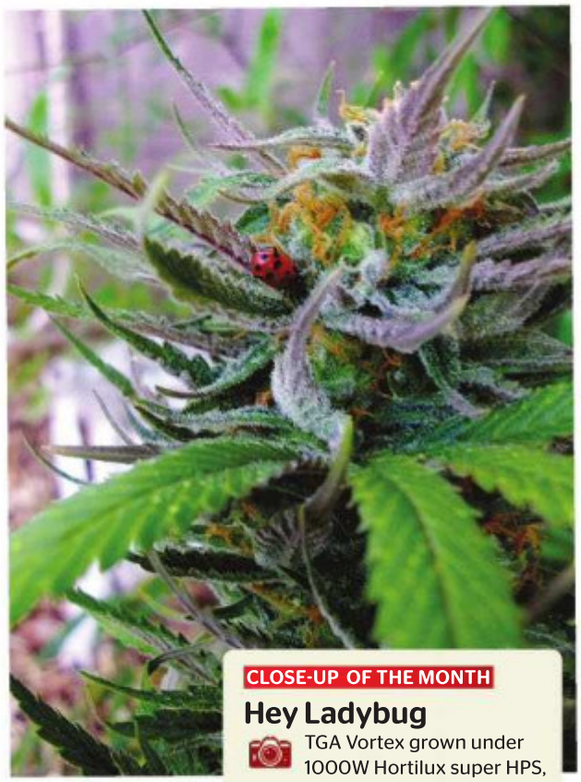
GROW OF THE MONTH

Tunnel of Weed

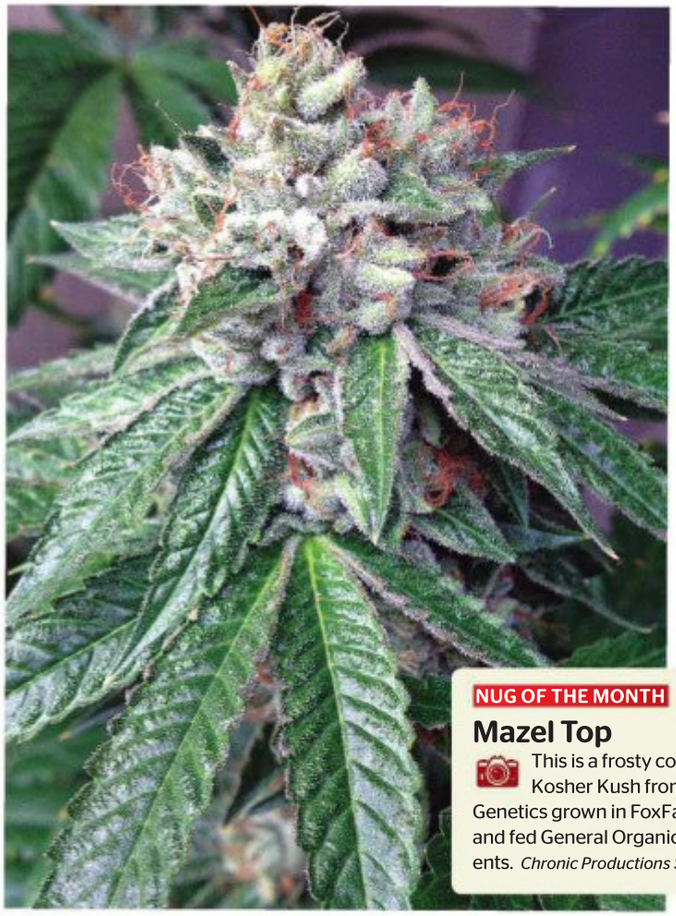
This is a shot from our 550-plant greenhouse in Colorado! *Vinnie at Acme Healing Center, Western Slope.*



CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH

Hey Ladybug

TGA Vortex grown under 1000W Hortilux super HPS, with FoxFarm Happy Frog soil and Gen Hydro Flora series nutes. *Plants grown by FIsho. Photos by Nasha.*



NUG OF THE MONTH

Mazel Top

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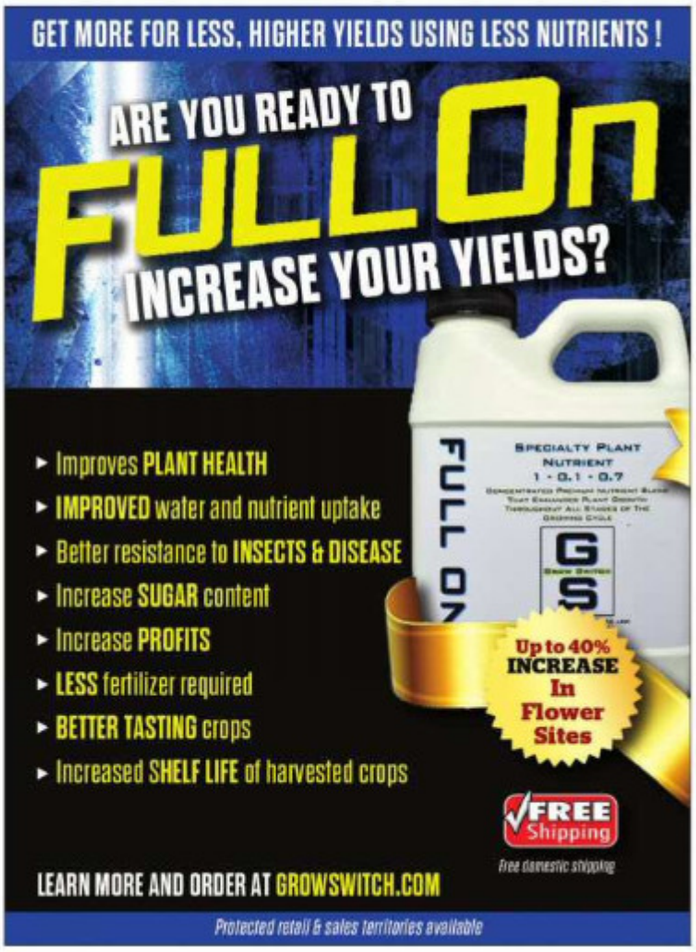

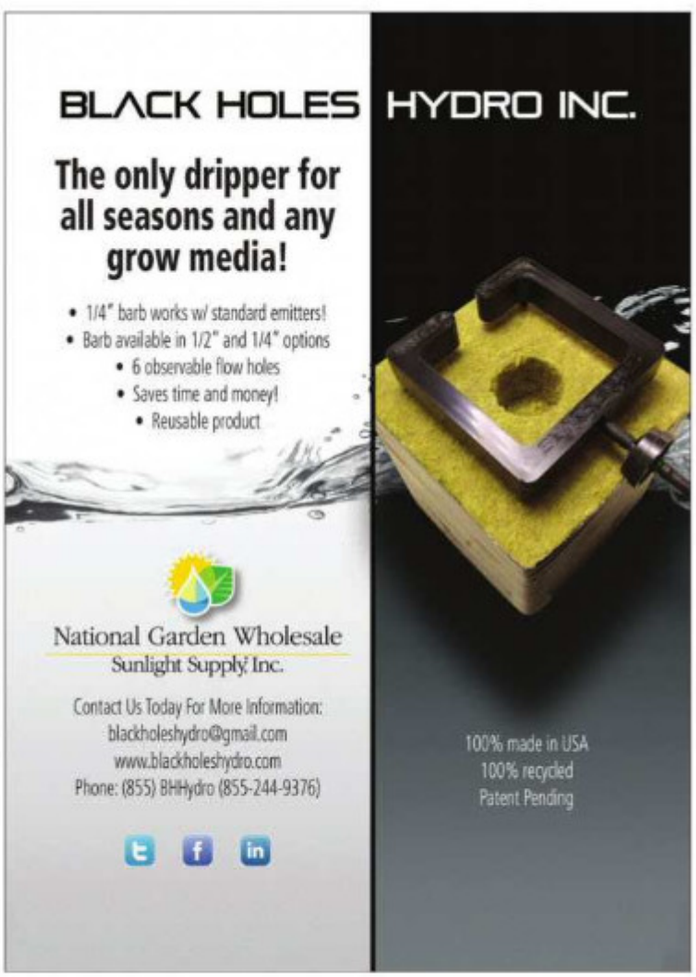

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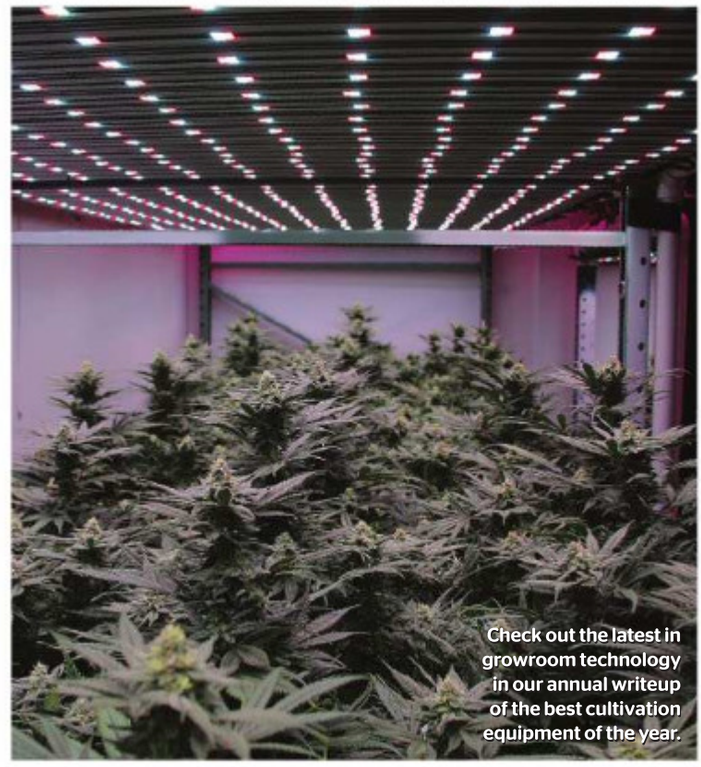

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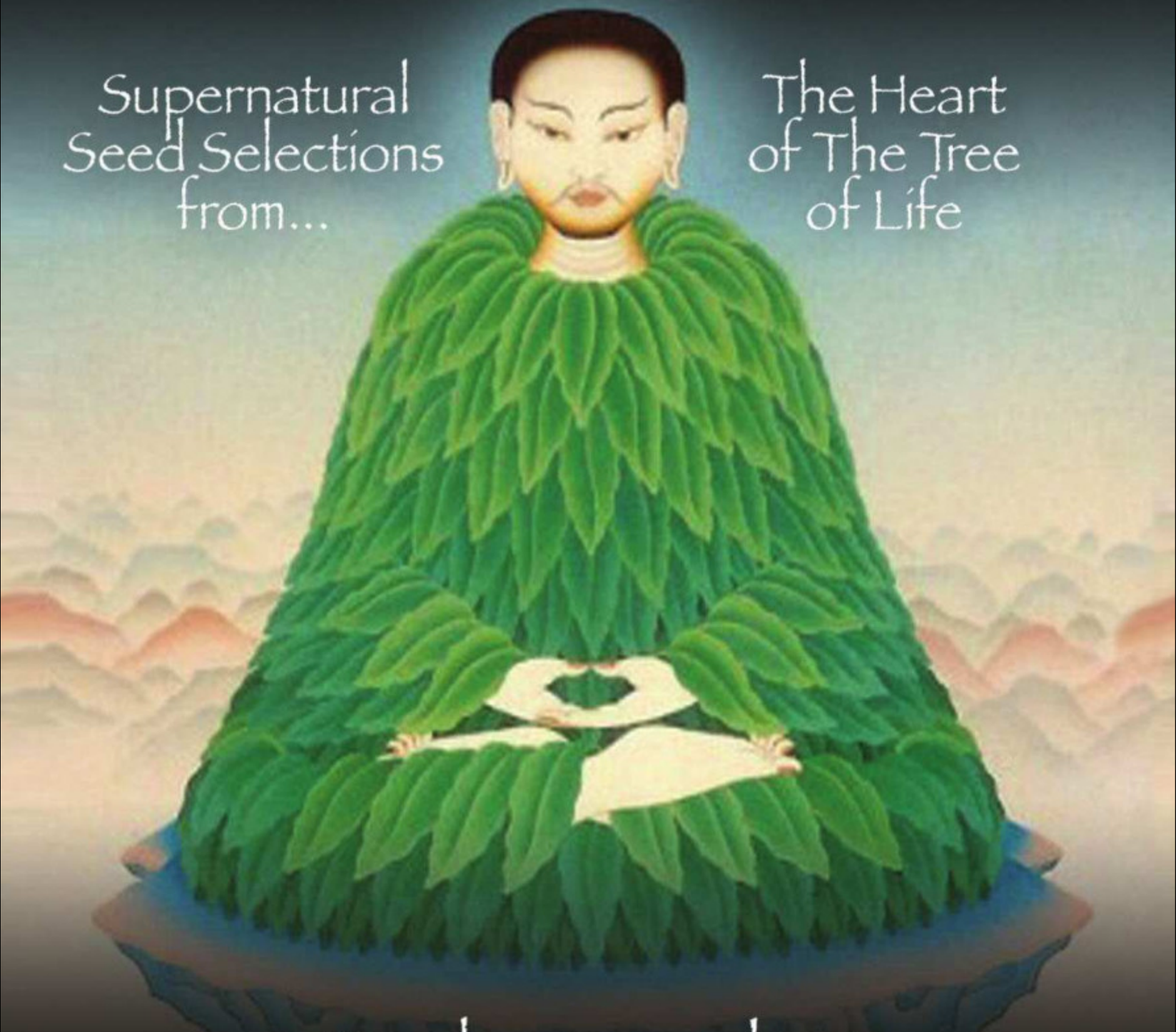

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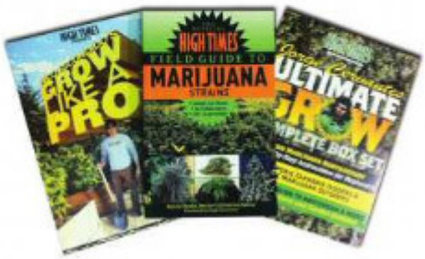

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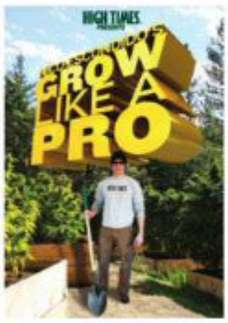

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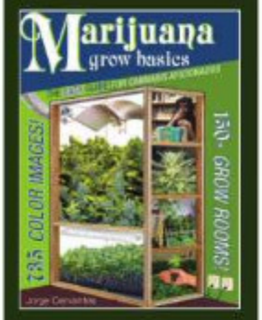

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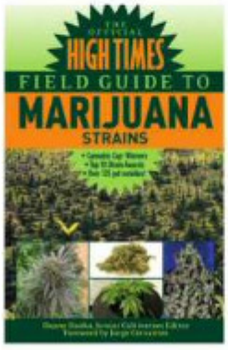

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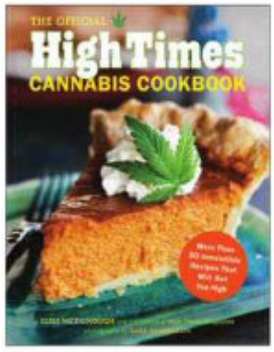

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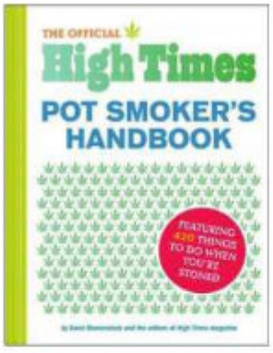

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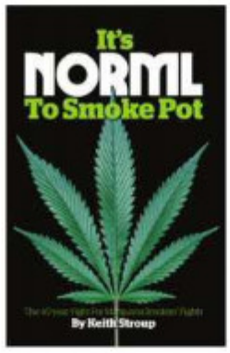

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By Keith Stroup
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32 "WE STARTED RECREATIONAL, IT ENDED KINDA MEDICINAL..."

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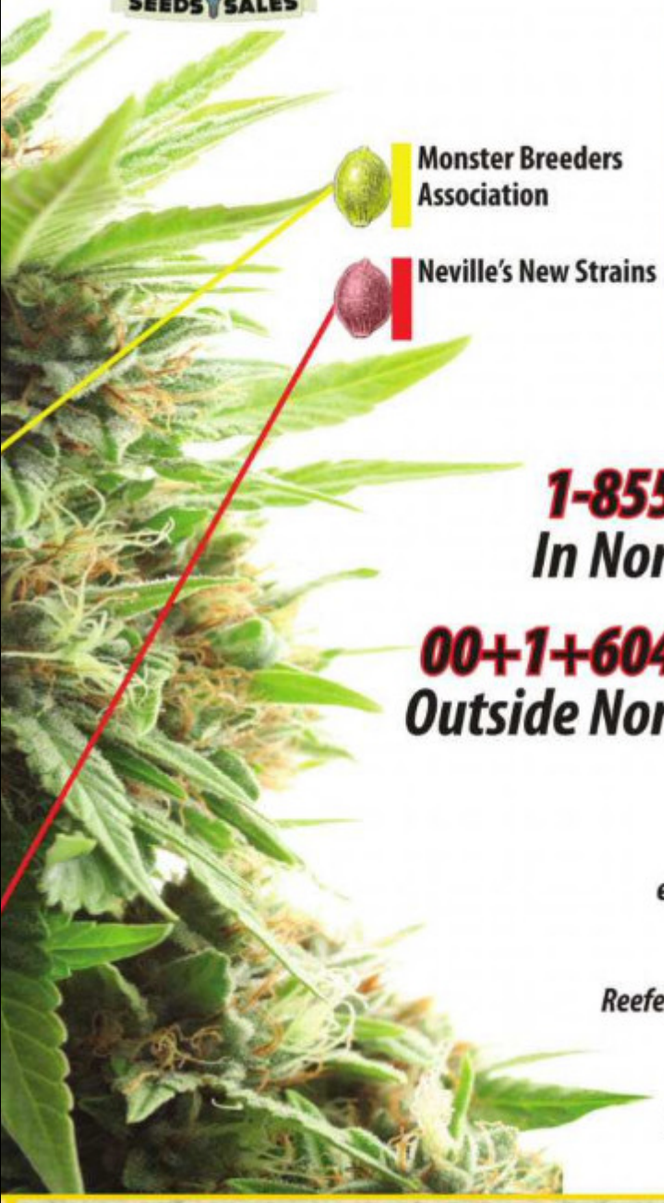

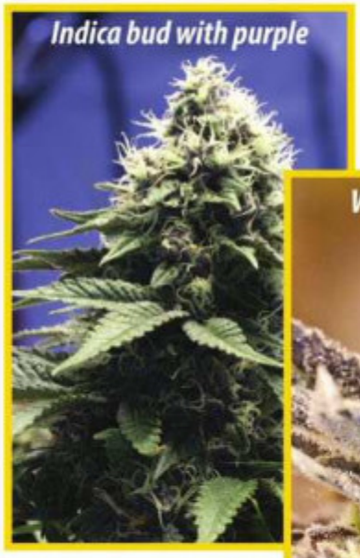

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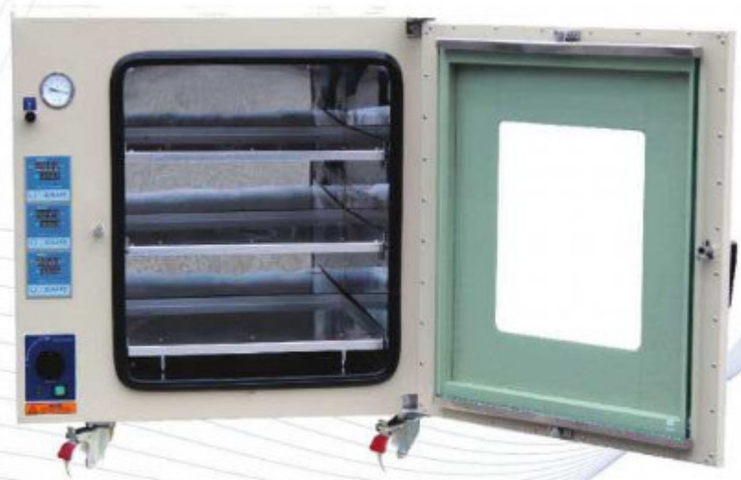

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